

GENERAL AWARENESS-CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTH OF JULY-2017

List of Important Days

- July 1** - National Doctors' Day.
- July 2** - World Sports Journalists Day.
- July 3** - International Plastic Bag Free Day (IPBFD)
- July 4** - Independence Day of United States.
- July 6** - World Zoonosis Day.
- July 7** - Global Forgiveness Day.
- July 7** - World Chocolate Day.
- July 11** - World Population Day.
(Theme - "Family Planning: Empowering People, Developing Nations")
- July 12** - Malala Day.
- July 15** - World Youth Skills Day.
- July 15** - France has celebrated its 228th Bastille Day.
- July 17** - World Day for International Justice (International Justice Day).
(Theme - "Preventing conflict and sustaining peace through decent work")
- July 17** - World Emoji Day
- July 18** - Nelson Mandela International Day.
- July 19** - Save public sector banks' day.
- July 23** - National Broadcasting Day.
- July 26** - Kargil Vijay Diwas.
- July 27** - Death Anniversary of 11th President of India,
Bharat Ratna Dr Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam (A. P. J. Abdul Kalam)
- July 28** - World Hepatitis Day. (Theme - "Eliminate Hepatitis")
- July 29** - International Tiger Day.
- July 30** - World Day against Trafficking in Persons.
(Theme - "Act to Protect and Assist Trafficked Persons")

Reserve Bank of India

- The **Financial Stability Report** released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the initiatives like GST will push the **economic growth** to 7.3% in the current fiscal year in terms of gross value added (GVA).
- **Customers of Banks** will not suffer any loss if **unauthorized electronic banking transactions** are reported within **three days**, the Reserve Bank of India has announced.
 - Further, the amount involved will be credited to the accounts concerned within **10 days**.
- RBI Deputy Governor **Viral Acharya** said that the Reserve Bank of India is considering setting up of **Public Credit Registry (PCR)**, an extensive database of **bank loans**.
 - Acharya suggested the **registry** would be managed by a public authority like the central bank, and **reporting loan** details should be **mandatory**.

- The **Finance Ministry** has received around **90 applications** for the post of **RBI Deputy Governor** as **SS Mundra's** three-year term is coming to end in July 2017.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is going to issue a new batch of **20 notes** under the **Mahatma Gandhi series-2005** soon.
 - The notes will have the inset **letter 'S'** and RBI Governor Urjit Patel's signature.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **refused** to **deposit cash** of over **200 crore** in old notes from 31 district **central cooperative banks** in **Maharashtra**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has floated a tender for leasing **12 currency verification systems** to help isolate **fake currency** from deposited demonetized notes.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had **stopped printing** the **2,000 currency notes** about five months ago and has **started printing** the smaller denomination **200 notes**.
- The new **200 currency note** will be available in the market before the previously reported date of **15 August 2017**.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has received final nod from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to function as the **Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit (BBPCU)** and operate the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**.

State Bank of India

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has **waived charges** for **fund transfer** of up to **1000** through its Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) to promote small transactions.
 - The charge will be **5** along with GST for fund transfer of **1000 to 1 lakh** and up to **15** for transactions of **1 to 2 lakh**.
- The State Bank of India (SBI) launched **SBI Realty**, a dedicated portal that will help **home buyers** to choose flats from its 3,000 approved projects across the country.
- India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) **cut interest rates on savings bank deposits** by **0.50 percentage points** effective July 31.

Other Banks

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** **Maestro debit card** holders will face card blockage if they fail to replace it with a more secure **EMV chip** based card by **July 31**.
- Private sector lender **Axis Bank** has reached an agreement to buy digital payments platform **FreeCharge** for 350-400 crore in cash from **Snapdeal**.
- **Canara Bank**, which has set an ambitious target of moving to 'paperless' futuristic banking, launched its first '**Digital Banking Branch**' at **Bengaluru**.
 - Titled '**CANDI**', the branch will provide an end-to-end digital experience to customers.
- **Netherlands'** third-largest bank **ABN AMRO** announced that it will no longer extend **credit** to **clients** in the **tobacco industry**.

Insurance

- **ICICI Prudential** has agreed to take over the life insurance business of **Sahara Group's** subsidiary **Sahara Life**, which was shut down by insurance regulator IRDAI in June.
- **ICICI Lombard General Insurance**, a joint venture of ICICI Bank and Fairfax Financial Holdings, has filed draft prospectus for its **IPO**.
 - This makes it the first non-life insurance company in India to file for IPO.
- **SBI Life Insurance**, a unit of State Bank of India, has filed for an **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**, that will reportedly raise over **\$1 billion** (over 6,400 crore).

- Insurance giant **Swiss Re** is preparing an **insurance policy** for the **Mesoamerican Reef** in **Mexico** to prevent its further deterioration.
- **HDFC Standard Life Insurance** and **Max Life Insurance** have called off their proposed merger after failing to win regulatory approval for a union that would've created an insurance giant with 1.1 lakh crore in assets.

Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court held that a person obtaining **jobs** and **admissions** under the **reserved category** by producing **fake caste certificates** will **lose the job/admission** as well as the certificate.
- The Supreme Court suspended the **government ban** on sale and purchase of **cattle** for **slaughter**.
- While hearing petitions challenging **Aadhaar**, the Supreme Court appointed a **9-judge bench** to decide whether **privacy is a fundamental right or not under the Constitution**.
- The Supreme Court ruled that the police **cannot arrest** the accused without conducting a **preliminary inquiry** under dowry harassment cases.

High Courts and Sessions Courts

- **Delhi High Court** launched a helpline number-**1888** for litigants and lawyers to provide an easy access to justice.
- The **Gujarat High Court** has asked the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to drop a line from its directive to send **12 large accounts** for **immediate action** under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code**.
- **Lahore High Court** **lifted a ban** on the **airing of Indian television serials** in **Pakistan**.
- **Madras High Court** directed that **National Song Vande Mataram** should be sung in all **Tamil Nadu educational institutions** at least **once a week**.
 - It further mandated all government and private offices sing or play it at least once a month.
- In a recent order, the **Bombay Court** held that a **working woman** who is "capable of maintaining and sustaining herself" should not be entitled to get maintenance from **her estranged husband**.

Election Commission

- **Achal Kumar Joti** has been appointed as the new **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)**.
 - He will take charge after **Nasim Zaidi** retires on July 6.

Central Government

- The government is going to link **promotions** of **IPS officers** to their **physical fitness**.
- The Centre notified that **action** would be taken against those who **post videos** and **images** of the protected **Andaman and Nicobar Islands' tribal communities** on **social media**.
- To create awareness about **Aadhaar number**, the government has started a story-telling contest named '**Aadhaar Hai To Aasaani Hai**'.
- Union Cabinet gave its in-principle approval for sale of the government's **51.11%** stake in **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL)** to India's largest oil producer **ONGC** for 30,000 crore.
- The government is pro-actively considering having **two separate time zones** in the country.
- In a bid to prevent **harassment of women**, the government has decided to make **registration of marriages compulsory**.

States

- **Uttarakhand** banned **begging**, making it one of the twenty states and two union territories to have banned the practice.

- **Mizoram** recently celebrated the 31st anniversary of the signing of the historic **Mizo peace accord**.
 - This Accord was signed by the Mizo National Front (MNF) leader **Laldenga**, Mizoram Chief Secretary **Lalkhama**, and Union Home Secretary **R D Pradhan**.
- The **Assam** government is going to raise a new **Special Rhino Protection Force (SRPF)** for better protection of the one-horned rhinos in Assam.
 - The cadre for the force will be selected from local youths hailing from the fringe areas of the **Kaziranga national park**.
- The **Goa** government has announced that it is discontinuing the **Goa Yuva Samwad Yojana**, a scheme through which people between 16 and 30 could avail free voice calls and internet data.
 - The scheme was supposed to operate till December **2019**.
- The **Haryana** government has decided to run **electric buses**, each capable of saving nearly 4.25 lakh litres diesel and reducing carbon emissions by 1,150 tonnes in 10 years, in **Gurugram**.
- The **Uttar Pradesh** government launched a scheme on **World Population Day** (July 11), under which it will give a **kit** comprising condoms and oral contraceptive pills as 'shagun' to **newlyweds**.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** became the last state to implement **GST**, passing the resolution during a special session of the legislative assembly.
- **H-Bots Robotics**, a startup from Telangana's T-Hub incubator, is developing '**police robots**' priced at about 3.5 lakhs.
- The **Telangana** government has issued an ordinance to curb the "social evils" caused by **online rummy card games**.
- **Rajasthan** has become the **first State** to lay down the **minimum educational qualifications** for contesting **elections to village cooperative societies** and various other cooperative bodies.
 - In this regard, state government has amended **State Cooperative Societies Rules, 2003**.
- **Delhi Police** is the first state police to get '**super cop**' belts which are widely used by the police in the UK, USA, and Russia.
- The **Maharashtra** government has launched a scheme to cover medical insurance of up to **10 lakh** for **legislators** and their families.
 - This scheme is aimed at curbing the use of fake bills in the medical reimbursement scheme the legislators were covered under earlier
- **Karnataka** government has recently formed a panel to design a **separate flag** for the state.
 - The Kannada flag, which is divided into two equal horizontal stripes, a **yellow** strip for the top half and a **red** strip below, could become the official state flag of Karnataka.
 - This flag was designed by Kannada writer and activist **Ma Ramamurthy** for a pro-Kannada political party.
 - As of now, **Jammu and Kashmir** is the only state that has its own flag.
- The **Maharashtra** government is going to purchase a **chopper** for the **VIPs** of the state after private agencies were suspended from flying them.
- The **Kerala** government approved the construction of a **Greenfield airport** near pilgrim site **Sabarimala**.
- The **Gujarat** government has decided to celebrate the '**World Heritage City**' status granted to **Ahmedabad** by UNESCO.
 - The programme, starting on August 1, will include heritage walks, cultural events, lectures and seminars about the 600-year-old city.
- **Uttar Pradesh** Power Minister **Shrikant Sharma** launched **free power connection** schemes for **BPL families** at 624 places across the state.

- The **Maharashtra** government has lifted the **ban** on the sale of **paan masala** until a single member committee decides on the matter.
- **Delhi** government has announced plans to launch a **mobile application** which will allow people to check the status of government projects on a single platform.
- **Maharashtra** government approved bank guarantees and loan-related sanctions for **four Mumbai Metro projects**.
 - This will help formalize the loan agreements with **Asian Development Bank** and **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** which are funding the projects.
- **Telangana prisons department**, citing Norway's example, has proposed to accommodate prisoners from overcrowded prisons in India at a rent of 10,000 a month per prisoner.
- **Delhi** civic agencies are going to launch a **mobile app** within the next two months to help locate all the **1800 public toilets** run by **Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)**.
- **Maharashtra** government announced that **integrated coaching** will not be allowed in the state from the next academic year.
- **Maharashtra** government announced plans to make **installation of GPS system mandatory** in black-and-yellow **taxis** and auto **rickshaws**.
- The **Haryana** government banned the use of **liquid nitrogen** in drinks and food.
- **Maharashtra** has topped the list for the **maximum** number of **applications** for **fresh registration** under **Goods and Services Tax** with over 1.3 lakh applications.
 - Maharashtra is followed by **Gujarat** and **Uttar Pradesh** with 90,000 and 87,000 registrations, respectively.

Place in the News

- The **UNESCO World Heritage committee** has put the **West Bank** city of **Hebron's Old Town** on its list of **world heritage in danger**, drawing outrage from **Israel**.
 - The decision was taken in **Krakow, Poland**, on a proposal from the **Palestinian** side.
- The **central** government has approved the **renaming of two villages** in **Haryana**, after complaints from villagers.
 - The **Ganda village** has been renamed to **Ajit Nagar** and **Kinnar** has been renamed to **Gaibi Nagar**.
- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has voted to leave **Australia's Great Barrier Reef** off its "**List of World Heritage in Danger**" despite several reports claiming major coral bleaching at the 2,300-km-long ecosystem.
- **Ahmedabad** has become India's first **World Heritage City** after the UNESCO World Heritage Committee accepted **India's official entry** at a meeting in **Poland**.
- A total of 36 places in **India** are recognized as **World Heritage Sites** by **UNESCO**, with the latest addition being the city of **Ahmedabad**.
 - With four of its sites recognized, **Maharashtra** tops the list in India.
 - India's World Heritage Sites include West Bengal's **Sundarbans**, Maharashtra's **Ajanta and Ellora Caves**, UP's **Taj Mahal**, Goa's **Churches and Convents**, among others.
- **Okinoshima**, sacred **Japanese island** where women are banned and men must strip naked was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- The union cabinet has approved the establishment of the **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**, **South Asia Regional Center (ISARC)** at campus of **National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC)** in **Varanasi**.

- **India** for the first time is going to **host International Theatre Olympics**, the greatest carnival of theatre in the world in **2018**.
 - The 7th edition was held in **Poland** in 2016.
- **Vondaraguppe village** in **Karnataka's Ramanagara district** has transitioned to a completely **cashless system**.
- The world's longest hanging pedestrian bridge, **Europabrücke** opened near the **Swiss town** of **Zermatt**.
 - The bridge, which is 494 metres high, hangs 85 metres above the Grabengufer ravine.

Personalities

- **Shyam Saran Negi**, independent India's first-ever voter, turns 100 years old.
 - Negi, who belongs to Chini village in present day **Kinnaur district** in **Himachal Pradesh**, was the first to cast his vote in the country's first-ever general elections held in 1951.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is going to adopt **Kakrahia**, a village in **Varanasi** under the **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana**.
 - Modi has adopted **Jayapur** and **Nagepur** in his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi.
- **UK's** first pregnant man, **Hayden Cross**, has given birth to **a girl** after putting his sex transition on hold to get pregnant by a sperm donor.
- **Arpan Doshi**, an Indian-origin man, who studied in **Gujarat** until he was 13, has become **UK's youngest** ever **doctor**.
- Nation remembered freedom fighters **Chandra Shekhar Azad** and **Lokmanya Tilak**, on their birth anniversaries of July 23.

Defence and National Security

- **India** successfully test-fired its indigenously developed **Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air** short range **Missile (QRSAM)**.
- After successfully test-firing its first intercontinental ballistic missile, **North Korea** claimed that it now has missiles capable of reaching anywhere in the world. The missile had a trajectory of 2,800 km and landed in Japanese waters.
- "**Maitree 2017**" a 14 day joint military training exercise between **Indian Army** and **Royal Thailand Army** commenced at **Bakloh** in **Chamba** district in **Himachal Pradesh**.
 - Aim: To build and promote closer relations while exchanging skills and experiences between the two armies.
 - **Maitree 2016** was held at **Krabi** in **Thailand** in 2016.
- **Pakistan** has successfully tested fired short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile '**Nasr**'.
 - '**Nasr**' is a high-precision weapon system with the ability to be deployed quickly.
- **Malabar Naval Exercise 2017**, a weeklong trilateral joint naval exercise involving the **United States, Japan** and **India** has started at **Chennai** coast.
- The **United States** has deployed anti-aircraft missiles for the first time in the **Baltics** for use in **NATO military drills** in **Lithuania**.
 - This comes ahead of the **Zapad exercise** by **Russia** and **Belarus**, which NATO allies believe could increase Russian presence.
- **Ships carrying Chinese** troops are headed to **Djibouti** to set up China's first **overseas military** base in an effort to enhance its global reach.
 - The base will be used for peacekeeping and humanitarian aid in **Africa and West Asia**, **China** said.

- The government has extended financial powers to the **Army Vice-Chief** to make emergency purchases to keep the force ready for '**short intense wars**'.
- The **United States** and **Australia** have jointly test-fired a **hypersonic missile** capable of moving at a speed **eight times faster than sound** as part of a \$54-million research project.
- **US Navy** successfully tested the world's first-ever active **Laser Weapons System (LaWS)**.
 - In the test, the LaWS deployed aboard the USS Ponce amphibious transport ship was able to destroy a drone in flight and moving targets on the Persian Gulf.
- **Indian Navy's** second **LCU Mark IV L52** ship was formally launched in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
 - The LCU Mark-IV vessels are designed for multipurpose amphibious operations jointly carried out **Indian Navy** and **Indian Army** to ensure maritime security of **Andamans and Lakshadweep islands**.
- The **US Navy** officially inducted the world's largest aircraft carrier **USS Gerald R Ford**. The nuclear-powered carrier is worth over 83,000 crore (\$12.9 billion) and weighs 1 lakh tonnes.
- **Iran** announced the production of a **New Defence Missile** amid ongoing tensions with the US. This missile can target fighter planes, unmanned aerial vehicles, cruise missiles and helicopters.
- **Sweden** is going to hold its 'first and biggest' **military exercise** in over 20 years, involving all of its military branches as well as troops from several **NATO countries**.
- **China** and **Russia** held their **First Joint Naval Drill** in the **Baltic Sea**.
 - This exercise involves anti-aircraft and anti-ship defence measures coordinated from the Baltiysk base in Russia's Kaliningrad enclave.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** has developed India's first unmanned tank **Muntra**, which has three tested and validated remote controlled variants - **Muntra-S, Muntra-M, and Muntra-N**.
- **Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited (RDEL)** launched the first two **Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPVs)** – **Shachi** and **Shruti** at their shipyard in **Pipavav, Gujarat**.
- **Russian Navy** paraded about 50 ships and submarines and over 40 planes and helicopters of the naval aviation in the city of St Petersburg to mark the **321st anniversary of the country's Navy**.
- The **Chinese Army** displayed more than **600 pieces** of military hardware, nearly half of which were displayed for the first time in public, in a parade to mark its **90th founding anniversary**.
- The **US military** successfully tested the **Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD)** system by launching a ballistic missile over the **Pacific Ocean**.

Committees/Commissions

- **Virender Sehwal** and **P T Usha** named in **12-member Committee** which has been handed the job to pick this year's **Khel Ratna** and **Arjuna Awardees**.
- The **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)** has adopted **3 Codex** standards for **pepper** (black, white and green), **cumin** and **thyme**.
 - It is for first time pepper, cumin and thyme; spices will have such universal standards.

Schemes/Initiatives

- The **Union Ministry of Science & Technology** has launched **National Biopharma Mission**, a first ever **Industry-Academia** mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India.
 - Under this mission, the ministry also launched **Innovate in India (i3)** program to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the sector.
- The Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Textiles India 2017** India's first ever mega textiles trade fair at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

- The **Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension** has launched a new training programme titled **Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training (COMMIT)** for **State Government officials**.
- Former Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi's** name from the scheme **Indira Priyadarshini Puruskar Yojana**, given to meritorious girls of Class 10 and 12 from **Rajasthan Board**, has been removed.
 - From now, this scheme will be called '**Padmakshi Puruskar Yojana**', based on the name of Goddess 'Saraswati'.
- Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship **Rajeev Pratap Rudi** and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** jointly laid the foundation stone of India's biggest **Global Skill Park** in **Bhopal**.
- **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**-led **Madhya Pradesh** government is setting up '**astro-OPDs**' in **Bhopal** where astrologers and such soothsayers will provide consultation to patients facing diverse problems.
- A **museum** in honor of late **President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam** inaugurated on **July 27** in **Tamil Nadu's Rameshwaram**.
 - Earlier, another museum in memory of Dr Kalam was opened in **Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram**.
- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDA)** has launched '**mAadhaar**', a new app for syncing **Aadhaar data** on **mobile phones**.
- The much awaited pension scheme-**Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana**- for senior citizens aged 60 or above was formally launched by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- The **Union Ministry of Rural Development** is going to launch **Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)**, a sub scheme under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
 - This scheme aims to provide an alternative source of livelihood to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) by facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas.
- The Women and Child Development Minister **Maneka Gandhi** launched an online portal **SHe-box** (Sexual Harassment e-box) for the **central government's women employees** to file complaints related to workplace sexual harassment.
- The **Union Ministry of Rural Development** launched **Aarambh** mobile app for performance based maintenance contracting and community contracting for maintenance of rural roads.
- Government has implemented the "**Seekho aur Kamao**" scheme which encourages the **youth** from minority communities to learn **employment skills**.
- PM **Narendra Modi** inaugurated a **Memorial** built in **Kalam's honour** at **Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu**.
- India's first bullet train project, the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail**, will be inaugurated this September by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and his Japanese counterpart **Shinzo Abe**.
- On the occasion of its foundation day, the **Union Ministry of Earth Science** has launched a mobile application titled '**India Quake**'.
 - This app has been developed by the **National Centre for Seismology (NCS)** for automatic dissemination of earthquake parameter (location, time and magnitude) after the occurrence of earthquakes.
- The **Union Ministry of Minority Affairs** has launched **Jiyo Parsi Publicity Phase-2** in **Mumbai** under the Jiyo Parsi scheme.

Summit/Conference

- **G20 Summit**, the annual meeting of the G20 (an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies), was held at **Hamburg Messe**, in the city of **Hamburg, Germany** during 7th and 8th July 2017.
- The **Karnataka** government has announced a 3-day **global conference on social justice** from July 21-23 at the **University of Agricultural Sciences** in **Bengaluru**.
 - It is aimed at commemorating the 126th birth anniversary of **BR Ambedkar**.
 - Theme: 'Reclaiming Social Justice, Revisiting Ambedkar'.
- For the first time India is going to host **Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017**, the world's largest conference on cyber space and related issues in **New Delhi** in **November 2017**.
 - This is the 5th edition of the conference.
 - Theme of GCCS 2017 - 'Cyber4All : An Inclusive, Sustainable, Developmental, Safe and Secure Cyberspace'.

Agreement/Deal/Signed

- **Russian** President **Vladimir Putin** signed a decree extending the embargo imposed on **food products** from the EU and other Western countries until the end of **2018**.
 - The move comes days after the European Union formally rolled out fresh **economic sanctions** against Russia.
- **Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA)** an arm of the Indian Railways for commercial exploitation of rail land has inked MoU with **National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC)** for redevelopment of **10 railway stations** across the country on global standards.
- **French** oil and gas company **Total S.A** has signed an agreement of \$4.8-billion (over 31,000 crore) with **Iran** to develop one of the world's largest **natural gas fields**, Iran's oil ministry announced.
 - The deal is to develop a gas field in **Persian Gulf** alongside China's CNPC and Iran's Petropars.
- During Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** historical visit, **India** and **Israel** signed a total of **7 agreements** in various areas like agriculture, space cooperation.
- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has inked an agreement with **4 Private Sector Banks** (ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank) and one **Public Sector Bank** (Bank of Baroda) for the purpose of collection of **provident fund dues** from the employers and payments to its subscribers.
 - EPFO had tied up with five banks, namely, State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank, Allahabad Bank, Indian Bank and Union Bank of India.
- The **United States** and **Qatar** signed an agreement on **combating terrorism and terror financing**.
- **5 Indian States** (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Telangana and Arunachal Pradesh) and a **Union Territory** (Puducherry) have formally adopted the **Centre's Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** initiative.
 - In this regard, these states/UT have signed MoU to join GeM initiative.
- **American** multinational retailer **Walmart** signed a MoU with the **Maharashtra** government to invest **900 crore** for opening up of **fifteen** stores.
 - Walmart already has two pilot stores in the state in Aurangabad and Amravati.
- The landmark **India-Japan civil nuclear agreement** came into effect.
 - This deal would enable Japan to export nuclear power plant technology as well as provide finance for nuclear power plants in India.
- The **Indian Army** has signed MoU with **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** to raise one regiment of the advanced **Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles (MRSAM)** defence system.

- **Iran** and US-backed **Iraq** signed an agreement to boost **military cooperation**.
- The regulator for the securities market in India **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has signed an MOU with the **European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA)**.
- **Sri Lanka** has signed a US \$1.1 billion deal to sell a 70% stake of the strategic **Hambantota** deep-sea port to **China**.

Meet/Visit

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** visited to **Israel** for his three-day historical visit.
 - Modi meet Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** and President **Reuven Rivlin**.
 - PM **Narendra Modi** met **Moshe Holtzberg**, the now 11- year-old survivor of the **26/11 Mumbai attacks**, in **Jerusalem**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has visited a total of **49 countries** in the last three years.
- National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval** was visited to **China** for attend the **BRICS meeting** in **Beijing**.
- The **2017 BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' meeting** was held at **Chongqing (China)**.

Bills

- The annual buffalo racing sport '**Kambala**' has been legalized in **Karnataka** after President **Pranab Mukherjee** approved the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Ordinance, 2017**.
- The **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** has been extended for six more months in **Nagaland** with effect from **June 30**.
- **India** recently-enforced **Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016**. This act prescribes **death penalty** for hijack conspirators in case of a casualty, and life imprisonment otherwise.
- The **Uttar Pradesh** government has decided to introduce an '**Anti-Copying**' Bill in the upcoming assembly session to check for cheating in the state examinations.
- President **Pranab Mukherjee** has given his assent to **Maharashtra Prohibition of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2016**.
 - Maharashtra is the first state in the country to formulate a law to punish social boycott.
- The **US House of Representatives** has passed a **\$621.5 billion defence policy bill** which includes proposals of boosting defence cooperation with India.
- To develop **Bengaluru** as the international hub of computer graphics technology, the Cabinet approved the **Karnataka Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics Policy, 2017-22**.
- The **Lok Sabha** has passed **The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017**.
 - This Bill amends the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009** to extend the deadline for teachers to acquire the prescribed minimum qualifications for appointment.
- **Parliament** has passed **The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016**.
- Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** introduced the **Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017** in the Lok Sabha.
- **Zimbabwe's** Parliament passed a bill giving **President Robert Mugabe** power to appoint the country's **top judges** without consulting anyone.
 - The bill is the first amendment to the Constitution since it was adopted by a referendum in **2013**.

- PM **Narendra Modi**-led cabinet cleared the **New Wage Code Bill** which will ensure minimum wage to 4 crore employees across all sectors.
- The parliament has passed **The Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017** after it was approved by the Rajya Sabha.

Fund

- The Union Government and **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have signed a **\$220 million loan** agreement for improving connectivity as well as transport efficiency and safety on **State Highways of Rajasthan**.
- **China**-based **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** approved a **\$329-million** (over 3,100 crore) **loan** to build access **roads** across 4,000 villages in **Gujarat**.
- The **European Union** has approved a **\$6.1-billion** (over 39,000 crore) **state bailout** for **Italy's fourth largest lender, Monte dei Paschi di Siena**.
- **India** and **Israel** jointly launched a **\$40 million** (over 258 crore) **technology fund** during PM Modi's visit to the country.
 - The fund is aimed at encouraging Indians to invest in Israel's technology ecosystem and to open development centres in Israel.
- **India** has contributed an additional \$1 million to **India-UN Development Partnership Fund** launched to support **sustainable development projects** across the developing world.
- The **Delhi** government has released **100 crore** for the completion of the **Signature Bridge**, which is twice the height of the **Qutub Minar**.

Economy

- **Syrian** President **Bashar al-Assad** has appeared for the first time on the country's **currency** since taking office, with his portrait printed on a new **2,000-pound** banknote that went into circulation.
- **National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE)**, India's first demutualised online national multi-commodities exchange will merge with **Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX)**.
 - The merged entity will create India's third biggest commodity exchange.
 - The largest commodity exchange by volume is the **Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)** followed by **National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)**.
- Restrictions on **cash dealings of 2 lakh or more** will **not apply** to **credit card bill payments**, the Revenue Department has clarified.
- **China's** biggest banks, including **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)** and **Agricultural Bank of China**, lost a combined **\$15 billion** (nearly 97,000 crore) in value in a week.

Companies/Industry

- **Jio** announced the launch of the **25,000-kilometre Asia-Africa-Europe (AAE-1) submarine cable system**.
 - Jio claimed it is the longest technology-based 100 Gbps (gigabits per second) submarine cable system in the world, stretching from France to Hong Kong with 21 cable landings across **Asia** and **Europe**.
- Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) major **ITC** became the **4th Indian company** to cross market **capitalization of 4 trillion**.
 - Earlier, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, **Reliance Industries** and **HDFC Bank** have achieved this milestone with TCS being the most valued company with market capitalization of 4.64 trillion.

- The government has approved e-commerce giant **Amazon's** proposed **\$500 million** (over 3,200 crore) foreign direct investment (FDI) in **retailing of food products in India**.
- **Microsoft** has ended support for **Windows Phone 8.1** just over 3 years after its April 2014 debut, marking the end of the **Windows Phone OS**.
- **Patanjali Group** founder **Baba Ramdev** launched a private security firm called '**Parakram Suraksha Private Limited**' in **Haridwar**.
- Mukesh Ambani-led **Reliance Industries** crossed **5 lakh crore** in market capitalization for the first time in its trading history, making it the **second** Indian company to do so after **TCS**.
- **Adobe** announced that it will **stop updating and distributing Flash Player** plug-in by the end of **2020**.
 - Flash technology was once one of the most widely used ways to watch videos and play games online.
- **Facebook TV** is set to launch online in mid-August.
 - The social media giant has partnered with media companies like Group Nine Media, BuzzFeed, ATTN, and Vox Media which would provide inexpensive, five to 10- minute shows.
- **Microsoft** has announced its long-standing basic graphics editing program '**MS Paint**' will no longer be available with the next **Windows 10 update** called the **Autumn Creators Update**.
 - The MS Paint program was first released with the very first version of Windows 1.0 in 1985.
- **Facebook** has shut down one of its **Artificial Intelligence systems** after chatbots programmed to converse in English started speaking in their own language.

Exports/Imports

- **India**, the world's **third-largest oil importer**, for the first time will import crude oil from the **United States**.
- **India** is the world's third-largest **beef exporter** and is expected to retain the spot in 2026, according to the OECDFAO Agricultural Outlook 2017-2026 report.
 - **Brazil** was ranked **top** beef exporter and **Australia** came **second**.

Taxation/Trade

- The government launched the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** regime, effective from **July 1, 2017**.
- The **Income Tax Department** has released a **list of people** who are **exempted** from **linking** their **Aadhaar card** with the **PAN** for now.
 - This list includes: Residents of **Assam, Meghalaya** and **Jammu & Kashmir**, All **Non-Residential Indians (NRIs)**, Citizens of **Foreign Nations**, Individuals aged **80 years or more**.
- **Finance Ministry** along with the **Central Board of Excise and Customs** launched **GST Rates Finder app** for consumers to verify the accurate tax rates on commodity and services under the Goods and Services Tax.
- The **Income Tax Department** has started sending **text messages** to people who have made big investments in the past two years, but have neither paid income tax nor filed I-T returns.
- Revenue Secretary **Hasmukh Adhia** has said that if property is rented out for shop, office, or other commercial purposes then it will be **taxable under GST** in case of earnings **over 20 lakh**.
- The government clarified that all **free food** supplied at **religious institutions** is **exempt** from the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.
- The **Union Finance Ministry** has launched a **new tax payer service module** titled **Aaykar Setu**.

- **Traders and businesses** will have to display the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) registration number** on their **business sign boards** and the **registration certificate** on the premises.
 - The GSTIN is a **15-digit number** which taxpayers get after registering with GST Network portal.
- **Income tax** authorities have added a provision in the **tax return form (ITR2)**, which will require all non-residents to disclose details of their bank accounts outside **India**.
 - Earlier, NRIs were allowed to claim funds lying in foreign accounts as lawful income earned abroad.
- Individuals selling **old jewellery** to **traders** or **hostel** accommodation provided to **students by educational institutions** will not be subject to **GST**, the government has clarified.
 - Further, GST will also not apply on sale of old cars or two-wheelers.
- The government's '**Project Insight**', which was built over seven years at a cost of **\$156 million**, will enable catching tax evaders by keeping a tab on their social media posts.
- The **Finance Ministry** announced that people can link their **Aadhaar** to their **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** till August 31, 2017.

Agriculture/Production

- **Hotels and food outlets**, including restaurants, will have to declare the kind of **oil** or **fat** used in cooking each of the food items on **their menus** if a proposal by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is passed.
 - FSSAI also wants to make it mandatory for restaurants to buy raw materials only from **licensed or registered vendors**.
- **India** tripled its **milk production** in the first quarter of the 21st century and is expected to become the world's biggest milk-producing nation, according to an OECD-FAO report.
 - It will be one-third more than second-placed **European Union**.

Space

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is developing **Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART)**, the first-ever mission that will deflect a near-Earth asteroid.
- **European and Japanese** space agencies are building a joint mission to **solar system's smallest** and "least explored" rocky planet **Mercury**.
 - Two spacecraft, one each for **ESA** (European Space Agency) and **JAXA** (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), are scheduled to launch in **October 2018** and would reach Mercury's orbit seven years later, enduring 350°C temperature.
- **NASA's James Webb Telescope**, the largest space telescope ever built, has been locked in a vacuum vault for testing at sub-zero temperatures to simulate its working in deep space.
- **Scientists from University of Cambridge, UK** have discovered the **smallest star** in the universe.
 - It has been named as **EBLM J0555-57Ab**.
 - The star was identified by a planet-finding experiment run by several universities titled **SuperWASP**.
- Astronomers at Pune-based **IUCAA** and **IISER** have discovered a **super cluster of galaxies**, which they named '**Saraswati**'.
- **Russian** space agency **Roscosmos** successfully launched '**Kanopus-V-IK**' Earth-imaging satellite and 72 microsatellites into orbit on a single rocket.
- **China** is going to build its first **Mars simulation base** on the country's **Tibetan plateau** as it aims to send the first mission to the red planet by **2020** after the US, India and Russia.

- The world's smallest spacecraft ever launched have successfully been placed in **low Earth orbit** by **ISRO's PSLV rocket**.
 - Named **Sprites**, the 3.5cmx3.5cm space probes weigh 4 grams each and run on sunlight.

Science and Technology

- The **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** will establish **India's first Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC)** at Patent Information Centre, **Punjab**.
 - The TISC will be set up under the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) TISC program.
- **US-Russia** research collaboration at **Harvard** has created the **world's most advanced quantum computer** with 51 quantum bits, or qubits– the fundamental unit of information in a quantum computer.

Health/Diseases/Drugs

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has declared the end of the most recent outbreak of **Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)** in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**.
- **Tamil Nadu** has reported its first case of **Zika virus**, bringing the tally of the mosquito-transmitted infection in India to **four**.
 - The previous three cases were confirmed in May, all coming from **Ahmedabad**.
- **Maharashtra** has become the **first Indian** state to provide free **injectable contraceptives** to women under the state's family planning programme, **Antara**.
- The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare **J P Nadda** launched the **National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (2017-22)**.
- The **Union Ministry of Science and Technology** has launched **SOHUM**, an indigenously developed low-cost hearing screening device for newborns.
- The report by the Joint **UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS**, 'Ending AIDS: Progress towards the 90-90-90 targets', revealed that **India, China** and **Pakistan** are among the 10 countries that accounted for more than 95 per cent of all new HIV infections in the Asia and the Pacific region in 2016.
- The government has said that **India** has **less than 1 doctor** for every **1,000 people**, which is less than the **World Health Organization** standard.
- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has banned the use of **stapler pins** in **tea bags** from January 2018.

Energy/Gas/Oil

- A consortium including India's oil and gas company **ONGC** has announced that it is willing to **invest \$11 billion in Iran** to develop a **natural gas** field and build the infrastructure to export the fuel.
- **Vietnam** has granted **ONGC Videsh** a two-year **extension** to explore oil block 128 in the South China Sea.
- **Venezuela's** state-owned oil firm **Petroleos de Venezuela** has offered a 9% stake in an oil field to **ONGC Videsh**, the international arm of India's state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved sale of government's **51.11%** stake along with management control in **HPCL (Hindustan Petroleum)** to **ONGC**.
- "**Hywind**", the world's first full – scale **floating wind farm** is being built off the coast of **Scotland** in the **North Sea**.

Environment

- The **National Zoological Park, New Delhi** is going to launch an **Animal Adoption Scheme**.
- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** directed a complete ban on '**manja**' (kite strings) made of or coated with any synthetic material that is non-biodegradable.
- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** ordered that a penalty of **50,000** will be imposed for **dumping waste in river Ganga** on the stretch between **Haridwar** and **Unnao**.
- Over 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic, enough to cover the entire country of **Argentina**, has been generated by humans since the material's mass production started in 1950s, a US based research has revealed.

Education

- The **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)** has announced that it will waive off the fees for **transgender** students, in all the courses that it offers.
- **Hyderabad** is planning to establish **India's first university** only for **Dalit students** by **2018**.
- "**JIGYASA**", a student- scientist connect programme was officially launched in **Delhi**.
 - **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, has joined hands with **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)** to implement this programme.
- President **Pranab Mukherjee** on the occasion of **Guru Purnima** launched 4 major **digital initiatives** in to push **e-education**.
 - They are: **Swayam, Swayam Prabha, National Academic Depository, and National Digital Library**.
- The **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** has made it **mandatory** for **engineering** students to participate in **one of five** extracurricular activities; otherwise they won't be awarded a degree.
 - The activities include **yoga, National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and sports**.
- Public schools in **Saudi Arabia** will start offering **physical education for girls** from the next academic year, in the government's latest reform to open opportunities for women.
- The **Telangana School Education Department** issued an order capping the **weight of school bags** for students in primary, upper primary and high schools.
 - The order directed school managements to ensure that the weight of a bag does not exceed **5 kilograms** for class 10 students.
- The **Delhi** government announced a '**merit cum means**' scholarship for students from low and middle income groups studying in state universities.
- Human Resource Development Minister **Prakash Javadekar** announced that they will soon give approval for the **20 world-class research and teaching institutions** that will be called '**Indian institutes of eminence**'.
- **Delhi** Deputy Chief Minister **Manish Sisodia** has directed the Art, Culture and Languages department to prepare a proposal for the formation of **12 language** academies promoting the language and culture of different regions.

Transport/Cars/Scooters

- **Indian Railways** is set to introduce '**Economy AC coaches**' in trains which will have fares lower than the existing third AC class.
 - The trains with the new proposed **three-tier class** will be fully air-conditioned, and have the existing AC-3, AC-2 and AC-1 classes also.

- The **Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation** has received the approval to create a **12-km 'missing link'** between **Khopoli** and **Kusgaon**, which will allow motorists to drive at 100 kmph.
- **Karnataka's Urban Land Transport Directorate** has proposed the introduction of 4,000 GPS-equipped **public sharing bicycles** at a cost of about **60 crore** in **Bengaluru**.
- The **Railways** is going to install **automatic flap-gates** with **barcode scanners** at stations in order to check tickets faster and ease the pressure on ticket collectors.
 - The new system will first be made operational at **Delhi's Brar Square station** as a pilot project.
- The **Indian Railways** has launched **RailCloud**, a virtual server with an inbuilt security system that will enable faster connectivity at a reduced cost.
- The **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)** is going to introduce a **second underground metro** in the city by extending the **Wadala Metro 4** route by 8 kilometres, up to **General Post Office**.
- In a bid to promote environment-friendly system, **Indian Railways** launched first **1600 HP solar-powered DEMU train** from the **Safdarjung** railway station in **Delhi**.
 - DEMU - Diesel Electric Multiple Unit
- **Matunga** suburban railway station in **Mumbai** has become the first station in India to be run by an **all women staff**.
- The **Mumbai railway** is going to introduce software which will help **commuter's book tickets** through **Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD)** codes.
- '**Yara Birkeland**', the world's first ever **self-driving ship** worth 162 crore will set sail along a 60 km route in **southern Norway** without any crew member in 2018.
- Minister of Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** announced that the **driverless cars** and any technology that takes away jobs will not be allowed in India.
- To cut down the distance to the **China** border through **Tawang** by 10 km, the Border Roads Organization (BRO) is going to construct **2 tunnels** through **Arunachal Pradesh's Sela Pass**.
- The **Delhi Metro Railway Corporation (DMRC)** has become the world's first completely '**green**' **Metro system** for adhering to green building norms for its residential colonies.

Films and Film Festival

- '**A Billion Colour Story**', co-produced by Bollywood actor Satish Kaushik and directed by Padmakumar Narasimhamurthy won the **Audience Award** at the 2017 **London Indian Film Festival**.
- **Shahid Kapoor** and **Alia Bhatt** won the **Best Actor** and **Best Actress** awards respectively for the film '**Udta Punjab**' at the 2017 IIFA Awards.
 - Sonam Kapoor's '**Neerja**' won the **best picture** award.
 - Music composer **AR Rahman** was honoured for 25 years of his musical contribution.
 - Actress **Taapsee Pannu** was named the **Woman of the Year** at the 18th edition of the IIFA Awards held in **New York**.
 - Actress **Alia Bhatt** was given the **Style Icon of the Year Award** for 2017.
- The **Tamil Nadu** government has announced the **State Film awards** for six consecutive years from 2009-2014.
 - Winners of Best Picture Category **Pasanga** (2009), **Myna** (2010), **Vaagai Sooda Vaa** (2011), **Vazhakku En 18/9** (2012), **Ramanujan** (2013), and **Kutram Kadithal** (2014).
- Music composer **AR Rahman** has been nominated at the **World Soundtrack Awards** for his music in the film '**Viceroy's House**'.

- Actress **Priyanka Chopra** has been nominated at the **Teen Choice Awards 2017** in the 'Villain' category for her Hollywood debut film '**Baywatch**'.
 - This is Priyanka's second nomination after she bagged one for her role in American television series 'Quantico' in 2016.
- 6th **Big Zee Entertainment Awards 2017 (ZEA 2017)**:
 - Winners Best Actor (Male) - Shahid Kapoor (Udta Punjab)
 - Best Actor (Female) - Alia Bhatt (Udta Punjab)
 - Most Entertaining Actor in Drama (Male) - Amitabh Bachchan
 - Best Action Hero - Tiger Shroff (Baaghi)
 - Most Entertaining Actor in Drama (Female) - Aishwarya Rai Bachchan
 - Most Entertaining Dancer - Tiger Shroff (Beat Pe Booty)
 - Most Entertaining Actor Comedy - Abhishek Bachchan (Housefull 3)

Festival

- Environment Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** launched a month-long plantation drive to mark **Van Mahotsav**.
 - Objective of Van-Mahotsav: To keep local people involved in plantation drives and spread environmental awareness.

Media /I.T / Telecommunication

- The **Delhi** government launched an **online portal** for **citizens** to file **Right to Information (RTI)** applications related to 172 state departments, including the chief minister's office.
 - With this, Delhi has become 2nd state to launch online portal to file RTI.
 - **Maharashtra** was the first state to accept e-RTI applications.
- The **Telecom department** has made it **mandatory** for all phones, including feature phones, to install **Global Positioning System (GPS)** from **January 1, 2018**.
 - The order aims to ensure consumers' safety as GPS can help locate them in emergency situations.
- The **Competition Commission of India** approved the merger of **Vodafone India** and Aditya Birla Group's **Idea Cellular**.

Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

- Senior lawyer **KK Venugopal** has been appointed as the new **Attorney General of India**.
 - He is going to replace Mukul Rohatgi.
- Senior IPS officer **R K Pachnanda** took charge as the new **Director General** of the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**.
- **Syndicate Bank** has appointed **Melwyn Rego** as its new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** and Managing Director (MD).
- **Serbian** Parliament elected **Ana Brnabic** as the country's **Prime Minister**.
 - With this, Ana became Serbia's first **female** and first openly gay Prime Minister.
- **Carrie Lam** was sworn in as the **1st female Chief Executive (CE)** of the **Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)**, an autonomous territory of China on the Pearl River Delta.
- **Tata Global Beverages Limited (TGBL)** appointed **Tata Sons** head **N Chandrasekaran** as Chairman with immediate effect.
- Senior IPS officer **Sanjay Kumar** was appointed as Director General (DG) of **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**.
 - He is going to replace R K Pachnanda who has been appointed as the DG of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

- RP Sanjiv Goenka Group Chairman, **Sanjiv Goenka** has been nominated as the **Chairman** of the **Board of Governors of Indian Institute of Technology - Kharagpur**.
- **Mongolia's** opposition candidate and ex-martial arts star **Khaltmaa Battulga** has won the country's first-ever **presidential** runoff elections.
- **Britain's Queen Elizabeth II** has appointed her first black equerry, a senior staff member in charge of assisting the royal household.
 - The Ghana-born Afghan war veteran, **Major Nana Kofi Twumasi-Ankrah**, had moved to the UK in 1982.
- **Ned Segal**, a longtime Goldman Sachs banker and the former Senior Vice President of Finance at Silicon Valley's financial software company Intuit, has been appointed as the **new Chief Financial Officer** at **Twitter**.
 - He will take over the CFO role from **Anthony Noto**, who was promoted to COO post last November.
- **Farzaneh Sharafbani** appointed as the CEO of **Iran National Airline**. With this she became the 1st female to lead the organization.
- **Canadian PM Justin Trudeau** has appointed former astronaut **Julie Payette** as the next **Governor General**.
 - The Governor General is Canada's ceremonial commander-in-chief.
- **Tata Sons** announced that it has appointed TCS Executive Director **Aarthi Subramanian** as group's Chief Digital Officer.
- An 18-year-old ragpicker **Bilal Dar** has been appointed as **Srinagar's civic ambassador**.
- Indo-Canadian YouTube personality **Lilly Singh**, also known as Superwoman, has been named **UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador**.
- Union Textile Minister **Smriti Irani** was given the **additional** charge of the **Information & Broadcasting Ministry** after M Venkaiah Naidu resigned.
- **Tesla** has added two new independent directors to its board, namely **James Murdoch**, CEO of 21st Century Fox, and **Linda Johnson Rice**, Chairman of Johnson Publishing.
- **Vikram Limaye** has taken over as the Managing Director and CEO of the **National Stock Exchange**.
- **Britain's** 1st woman Sikh MP, **Preet Kaur Gill** elected to influential cross-party panel in **UK Parliament** that examines workings of Home Office.
- Actor **Kamal Haasan** has been appointed as the **Ambassador** of the new Kabaddi team **Tamil Thalaivas** for the fifth season of **Pro Kabaddi League**.
 - The team Tamil Thalaivas is co-owned by **Sachin Tendulkar**.
- **TR Zeliang**, the former **Chief Minister** of **Nagaland**, was appointed to the post again.
 - **Nagaland** Chief Minister **TR Zeliang** won the vote of confidence in the state assembly, garnering the support of 47 out of 59 MLAs.
- Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson **Gopal Baglay** was appointed as **Joint Secretary** in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
 - He will have the tenure of 3 years. He is going to replace **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**, who has been named as India's **Ambassador to France**.
- **Sanjay Kothari**, a 1978-batch IAS officer of Haryana cadre, has been appointed as the **Secretary** to President-elect **Ram Nath Kovind**.
 - Senior journalist **Ashok Malik** has been appointed as the **Press Secretary to Kovind**.

- The **Deputy President** of the **UK Supreme Court**, **Brenda Hale** has been appointed as the first female president of the UK Supreme Court.
- **Raveesh Kumar** is going to be the next **spokesperson** of the **Ministry of External Affairs**.
- Actor **Amitabh Bachchan's** role as **UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador** has been extended for **two more years**.
 - He will now be working on spreading awareness regarding vaccination for MR (measles and rubella) infections for children.
- **Ram Nath Kovind** was sworn-in as India's 14th **President**.
 - He was administered the oath of the office by the Chief Justice of India **JS Khehar**.
- Former Chief Marketing Officer of furniture e-tailer Urban Ladder **Sanjay Gupta** has joined **Uber** as its **Head of Marketing** in India.
- **Janata Dal (United)** leader **Nitish Kumar** took oath as the **Chief Minister of Bihar** (for the Sixth time), a day after resigning from the post due to a rift in the Congress-RJD(JD(U)) alliance.
 - BJP leader **Sushil Kumar Modi** took oath as the **Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar**.
 - Bihar CM **Nitish Kumar** won floor test in the State Legislative Assembly with 131 trust votes in his favour.
- **India's** third largest private lender **Axis Bank** has reappointed **Shikha Sharma** as Managing Director and CEO for a term of 3 years starting June 2018.
- The **Andhra Pradesh** government issued orders appointing badminton star and 2016 Rio Olympics silver medallist **PV Sindhu** as **Deputy Collector**.
- **Pakistan's** ruling party has nominated **Shahid Khaqan Abbasi** as the interim **Prime Minister** for a period of 45 days after Nawaz Sharif was disqualified from the position.
- The **Board Of Control For Cricket In India** (BCCI) appointed former **Tamil Nadu Ranji team** captain **Sunil Subramaniam** as the **Administrative Manager** of the **Indian Cricket Team**.

Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit

- **Italian** football legend **Francesco Totti** announced his retirement from football after spending his 25-year-long playing career with **Seria A club Roma**.

Deaths

- Actor **Minaketan Das** (56), known for his roles in Odia films and television series, passed away.
- Bollywood Actress **Sumita Sanyal** (71), who worked in the 1971 Amitabh Bachchan-Rajesh Khanna starrer 'Anand', passed away.
- **India's** noted cartoonist **Mangesh Tendulkar** (83) passed away.
- **Chinese** Nobel Peace laureate **Liu Xiaobo** (61) who was recently released from prison on compassionate grounds passed away.
- **Maryam Mirzakhani** (40), the world's first woman as well as the first Iranian to win the Fields Medal for mathematics died of breast cancer.
- Oscar-winning Hollywood actor **Martin Landau** (89) passed away.
- American rock band **Linkin Park's** lead vocalist **Chester Bennington** (41) died by committing suicide.
- **Bhiku Daji Bhilare** (98), who claimed to have saved Gandhi from an earlier assassination attempt by Nathuram Godse in 1944, passed away.
- Hollywood actor **John Heard** (71) passed away.

- Former chief of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), **Udupi Ramachandra Rao** (85) passed away.
 - He served as ISRO's chief from 1984 to 1994 and is widely known as the man behind India's first satellite **Aryabhata**.
- Renowned scientist Professor **Yash Pa** (90) passed away.
- Former **Karnataka** Chief Minister **Dharam Singh** (80) passed away.
- Bollywood actor **Inder Kumar** (43) has passed away due to cardiac arrest.
- Freedom fighter **K.E. Mammen** (96), who had participated in the Quit India Movement, passed away.

Awards/Honours

- IPS officer **Mahesh Bhagwat** has been given the US government's 2017 **Trafficking in Persons Hero award** for his 13 year-long fight against human trafficking.
- Technology major Adobe's CEO **Shantanu Narayen** and former US Surgeon General **Vivek Murthy** are the two Indian-Americans among 38 individuals who will be honored with the **Great Immigrants award** in the US this year.
- The **CISF security** cover at the **Delhi Airport** has been rated the **best service** in the world by quality rating agency **World Quality Congress (WQC)**.
- A new **Israeli Chrysanthemum flower** has been named '**MODI**' as a gesture to mark Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** visit to Israel.
- India's **The Energy Resources Institute (TERI)** has been ranked as the **second best climate think tank** in the world.
- For the third consecutive year, **Tata Steel Ltd** has bagged Prime Minister's trophy for '**Best Performing Integrated Steel Plant**'.
- Singer **Ariana Grande** has been made the first **honorary citizen of Manchester** city in **UK**.
- Former India captain **Sourav Ganguly** inaugurated an **8-foot tall bronze statue** of himself at the **Balurghat Stadium** in **West Bengal**.
 - The statue has been installed by the South Dinajpur District Sports Association as a tribute to the former player.
- **Vallabhbhai Vasrambhai Marvaniya**, a man from Gujarat's Junagadh has won the 9th **National Grassroots Innovation Award** for introducing carrots to the people of Gujarat in 1943.
- Former Union Minister **Ashwani Kumar** was conferred with the **Japan's** imperial decoration '**Order of the Rising Sun**' award for his contribution to fostering Japan-India ties.

Sports/Game

- **MS Dhoni** has become **India's fourth highest run scorer** in ODIs, after reaching the 15-run mark in the second ODI against Windies.
 - Top 5 - Sachin Tendulkar - 18426 Runs, Sourav Ganguly - 11363 Runs, Rahul Dravid - 10889 Runs, Mahendra Singh Dhoni - 9442 Runs, and Mohammad Azharuddin - 9378.
- **Mumbai-based** 18-year-old racing driver **Jehan Daruvala** has become the **1st Indian** to win the **FIA Formula 3 European Championship** after winning the third race at the **Nuremberg** circuit.
- Four-time **FIFA World Cup winner Germany** won its maiden **FIFA Confederation Cup Football title** by defeating Copa America Champion **Chile** in the final match held at **St Petersburg, Russia**.
- The **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** has submitted an expression of interest to host the Under-20 **FIFA World Cup** in 2019.

- The **22nd** edition of the **Asian Athletics Championship** is all set to be kicked off by **Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik** at **Kalinga Stadium** in **Bhubaneswar**.
- The **Pankaj Advani**-led **Indian snooker team** defeated **Pakistan** in the final of the **Asian Team Snooker Championship**.
- **Indian National Football** has managed to secure **96th spot** at the latest **FIFA world football rankings**.
 - Top 10: Germany, Brazil, Argentina, Portugal, Switzerland, Poland, Chile, Colombia, France, and Belgium.
- **India's Manpreet Kaur** bagged **Gold** medal in **women's shot-put** on the opening day of the **Asian Athletics Championships 2017** in **Bhubaneswar**.
 - Meanwhile, **Vikas Gowda** won the **bronze** medal in the **men's discus throw** finals but failed to qualify for **World Championships**.
- India's **Harinder Pal Sandhu** has defeated Rhys Dowling of Australia to lift **South Australian Open squash title**.
- **Thailand's Atthaya Thitikul** has become the **youngest** known winner of a professional **golf tour event** after claiming the **Ladies European Thailand Championship** at the age of 14 years, 4 months and 19 days.
 - Thitikul, who ended the championship at the final hole, replaced Canada's **Brooke Henderson** as the youngest winner in ladies' professional golf.
- **Indian athlete Sudha Singh** bagged a **Gold** in women's 3000m **steeplechase** event of the Asian Athletics Championships.
- The **Indian Polo** team clinched a **Polo World Cup** spot after defeating Pakistan in a qualifying match in **Tehran**.
- Mercedes' Formula One driver **Valtteri Bottas**, has won the **Austrian Grand Prix**.
- **India** bagged a total of **29 medals** including **12 golds** to top the medals tally at the **Asian Athletics Championships** for the first time ever.
- Former cricketer **Ravi Shastri** has been named the **new coach** of **Team India** on a two-year contract.
- Indian women's cricket team captain **Mithali Raj** has become the **all-time highest run-scorer** in **women's ODI** cricket.
 - She also became the second player after **Charlotte Edwards** to score over 500 runs in four different calendar years in women's ODI cricket.
- Following **Angelo Mathews'** resignation as **Sri Lanka's captain** from all three formats, the country's cricket board has named : **Dinesh Chandimal** as the Side's Test captain.
 - **Upul Tharanga** as the limited-overs captain.
- The **Indian cricket team** has played its **first ODI** 43 years ago on this day (13th July) in the year 1974.
 - India has played the most ODIs in cricket history.
- **Indian Para-athlete Sundar Singh Gurjar** became only the second Indian to win a gold at the **World Para Athletics Championships**, winning one in **javelin** at the 2017 edition in **London**.
 - Rio gold medalist Devendra Jhajarhia was the first Indian to win a gold in 2013.
- **Spain's Garbine Muguruza** has won the **Wimbledon Women's singles** title. With this she became only the second Spanish women's player in the history of tennis to win the wimbledon single's title.
- **Indian hammer thrower Damneet Singh** won a **silver** medal in the boys' hammer throw event to give India their first medal at the **IAFF World U-18 Athletics Championships** in **Nairobi**.

- Swiss tennis star **Roger Federer** won a record **8th Wimbledon men's singles title**. With this he also became the oldest male player to win The Championships in Open Era.
- Switzerland's **Martina Hingis** won the **Wimbledon mixed doubles** title alongside Andy Murray's brother **Jamie Murray**.
 - Women's Singles: Garbine Muguruza (Spain)
 - Men's Doubles: Lukasz Kubot (Poland) / Marcelo Melo (Brazil)
 - Women's Doubles: Ekaterina Makarova (Russia) / Elena Vesnina (Russia)
 - Mixed Doubles: Jamie Murray (United Kingdom) / Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
- Indian squash player **Harinder Pal Sandhu** won his **second** title in two weeks after winning the **Victorian Open** by beating top-seed Rex Hedrick of Australia.
- Mercedes' British Formula One racer **Lewis Hamilton** equaled Jim Clark and Alain Prost's record of **5 British Grand Prix** titles after winning the race.
- The **BCCI** named former Indian cricketer **Bharat Arun** as the Indian cricket team's **bowling coach**. **Sanjay Bangar** and **R Sridhar** will remain the batting and fielding coach respectively.
- Former national-level hockey player **Amit Saroha**, who met with an accident in 2007, clinched the Silver medal in the club throw event in the F-51 category at the **World Para Athletics Championships**.
- India's top-ranked female shot putter **Manpreet Kaur** has been **suspended** by the **Athletics Federation** after she failed dope test.
 - He is also set to lose her gold medal which she won at the 22nd Asian Athletics Championships.
- **India's women's cricket team** defeated defending champions **Australia** by 36 runs to reach the World Cup final for the second time in history.
 - Cricketer **Harmanpreet Kaur** scored 171, the highest WWC score by an Indian. With this she became only the second player in women's World Cup history to score a century in the knockout stage.
- Taking India's medals tally to three, the Indian paraathlete **Karamjyoti Dalal** won a **Bronze Medal** in **discus throw** at the **World Para Athletics Championships**.
- Indian tennis player **Vishnu Vardhan** won the **Men's doubles** event at **ATP Astana Challenger** with Japanese partner **Toshihide Matsui**.
- India's para athletes **Sharad Kumar** and **Varun Singh Bhati** clinched the **Silver** and **bronze** medals respectively in **High jump** at the World Para Athletics Championships.
- **Indian Super League side Atletico de Kolkata** has been renamed to '**Aamar, Tomar Kolkata**' (ATK) after the team's partnership with Spanish football club **Atletico Madrid** ended.
- Indian shuttler **HS Prannoy** won the **US Open Grand Prix Gold** tournament after defeating **Parupalli Kashyap** in an all India final.
- **British** cyclist **Chris Froome** won his third consecutive and fourth **overall Tour de France**, finishing the race in 86 hours 20 minutes 55 seconds in **Paris**.
- World youth boxing champion **Sachin Siwach** clinched a **Gold** medal at the **Commonwealth Youth Games** in the **Bahamas**.
- The Indian contingent at the **World Para Athletics Championship** ended its campaign with **five** medals (1 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze).
- **England's women's cricket team** defeated **India** by 9 runs at Lord's Cricket Ground to clinch their fourth **World Cup** title.

- **India** is going to host the **Men's World Boxing Championship** for the first time in **2021** and the **Women's World Championship** in **2018**.
- **India** will host its **1st WTA tournament** in five years when the city of **Mumbai** stages the 80 lakh (\$125,000) **Mumbai Open** in **November**.
 - Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association had recently bagged the hosting rights of Chennai Open which is India's only ATP World Tour event, and re-branded it as "Maharashtra Open", to be held in **Pune**.
- Indian golfer **Diksha Dagar** won a Silver medal in the women's individual golf event at the Deaflympics in **Samsun, Turkey**.
 - Diksha is the only Indian golfer (Under-18) to be ranked in the top 500 worldwide.
- Former **Russian** chess champion **Garry Kasparov** is set to come out of **retirement to play** in a **US tournament** next month.
 - Kasparov, who retired from professional chess in 2005, will compete against nine top players at the **Sinquefield Cup** in **Missouri**.
- Ferrari's Formula One racer **Sebastian Vettel** won the **Hungarian Grand Prix title**, finishing ahead of teammate Kimi Raikkonen and Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas.
- Indian shuttler **C Rahul Yadav** and the men's doubles pair of **Manu Attri** and **B Sumeeth Reddy** clinched the **Men's singles** and **men's doubles title** respectively at Lagos International challenge in **Nigeria**.
- The **Indian boxing** contingent at the **48th Grand Prix Usti Nad Labem** in the **Czech Republic** claimed **five gold** medals, **two silver** and one **bronze** medal at the event.

Report

- **India** has slipped by one spot to become the **4-largest foreign investor** into the **UK**.
 - The **US** remains on the top, investing in 577 projects in the UK, followed by **China** (including Hong Kong) in second place with 160 projects.
- A **UN survey** has revealed that **Singapore** is the **Most cyber secure country** in the world, followed by the **US, Malaysia, Oman, and Estonia**.
 - **India** ranked 25th in the list.
- Top 9 in 2017 **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index**
 - Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Slovenia.
 - **India** has been ranked **116** on the index with a score of 58.1, behind countries such as Nepal, Iran, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and China. **Pakistan** is ranked **122**.
- With 24.1 crore active users, **India** has overtaken the **United States** to become **Facebook's largest country audience**, according to data shared by the platform for July.
- **Swami Vivekananda Airport** of **Raipur** was ranked first in **Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI)** Survey among 49 airports in the country.
 - It was followed by **Udaipur** (2nd), **Amritsar** (3rd) and **Dehradun** (4th) airports.
- **Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved** has been featured among the **Top 10 most influential brands** in India along with Mukesh Ambani-led **Reliance Jio**, according to research firm Ipsos.
 - **Google** has been ranked at the top, while **Microsoft** and **Facebook** are ranked **second** and **third**, respectively.
 - The **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the only financial institution on the list, moved up four ranks to the **fifth** position.
- **San Miguel de Allende** in **Mexico** has been named the **World's Best City** in a survey by Travel and Leisure magazine.

- **India's Udaipur** has been ranked 14th in the list.
- Top 5: San Miguel de Allende (Mexico), Charleston (US), Chiang Mai (Thailand), Kyoto (Japan), and Florence (Italy).
- **India** has ranked 4th among **world's fastest growing economies**. According to recently released World Bank's Global Economic Prospects.
 - India has been placed behind smaller economies of Estonia, Uzbekistan, and Nepal in growth rate.
- For a 4th consecutive year, US retail giant **Walmart** has topped the **2017 Fortune Global 500 list** with a revenue of **\$486 billion**.
 - **7 Indian companies** were featured in this list.
 - **Indian Oil**, with revenues of over \$53 billion in previous fiscal, is the highest ranked Indian company and placed **168th** globally.
- A US state department has recently revealed that **India** in 2016 replaced **Pakistan** as the world's **third largest terror target** after **Iraq** and **Afghanistan**.
 - It added that out of the 11,072 terror attacks across the world in 2016, 927 took place in India.
- According to a **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights' report**, **Maharashtra** and **Rajasthan** recorded the highest number of cases of **child marriage**.
- According to the government data, out of India's population of **132 crore people**, only **6.8 crore** or **5.15%**, have a valid passport.
 - **India** is now **third** in terms of issuing passports, after **China** and **US**.
- According to **National Centre for Seismology**, **29** Indian cities and towns including **Delhi** fall under 'severe' to 'very severe' seismic (earthquake) zones.

National Parties/Regional Parties

- The BJP-led NDA announced Union Information and Broadcasting Minister **M Venkaiah Naidu** as its candidate for the **Vice Presidential** elections.
 - He will contest against the Congress-led Opposition's candidate **Gopalkrishna Gandhi** (Mahatma Gandhi's grandson).

General - National

- **India's tallest Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower** at the **Delhi Airport** is going to start operations by December, Airports Authority of India Chairman **Guruprasad Mohapatra** announced.
 - The new 101.9-metre tower is the seventh tallest ATC tower in the world.
- **Mumbai's 'Vikrikar Bhavan'** was renamed as '**GST Bhavan**' after the Goods and Services Tax regime was rolled out June 30 night.
- The **United States of America (USA)** has rolled out **Global Entry programme (GEP)**, a pre-approved expedited entry clearance programme for **low-risk Indian** travellers.
- To facilitate trade and to improve communication between the two countries, **India** and **Bangladesh** have decided to construct a **bridge** over **Mizoram's Khawthlangtuipui River** (also known as Karnaphuli River).
- **India** is emerging as a front runner in the **global fight against climate change**, the World Bank has said, noting that the solar power is gradually displacing coal as an energy source in the Asian country.
- **India** is going to invite the 10 leaders of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** as **Chief Guests** for **2018 Republic Day** celebrations.
 - 10 Member Countries of ASEAN are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

- Expanding its outreach to the Arab world, **External Affairs Ministry** is going to make its website available in **Arabic**.
 - After French and Spanish, Arabic will be the third foreign language that will be available on the ministry's website.
- **India** will soon join **Global Foreign Exchange Committee (GFXC)**, a newly-constituted forum of central bankers and experts working towards promotion of a robust and transparent foreign exchange (Forex) market.
- **India** and **European Union (EU)** have established **Investment Facilitation Mechanism (IFM)** for **EU Investments in India**.
- Union Minister **MJ Akbar** said that the government is working towards setting up a **passport centre** every 50 kilometres in the country.
- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** issued instructions to all states to stop using **bouquets** during **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tours within India**.
 - Instead of bouquets, states can offer PM Modi a flower along with a **Khadi handkerchief** or a **book** to welcome him.
- According to new regulations, the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** has powers to start probe against service providers registered with it without intimating them.
 - IBBI, which is implementing the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, has notified the regulations for inspection and **investigation of service providers** registered with it.
- Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** said that the **Financial year** may soon begin from **January** in sync with the calendar year.
 - In May, **Madhya Pradesh** became India's first state to shift its **financial year** format to **January-December** from the present April-March cycle.
- The **Lucknow Metro** becomes India's first to have its own **FM radio station**, which will provide entertainment and information on metro safety.
- **Mumbai Metro One** announced plans to launch **India's first mobile ticketing system** by mid-August for easy commute.
 - Commuters will be able to buy tickets using the Mumbai Metro app, which will generate a **QR code** that can be used to get access through automated fare collection gates.
- Minister of State for Finance **Santosh Gangwar** has announced that shifting the financial year from April-March cycle to **January-December** will not happen next year (2018).

General - International

- **Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway** is set to become the largest shareholder of **Bank of America** surpassing **Vanguard Group** by exercising its warrants to buy 700 million common shares.
- The **UK Parliament** has scrapped a requirement for **male lawmakers** to **wear ties** and **jackets** in the House of Commons, breaking a long-standing tradition requiring the MPs to wear ties as a part of rules governing conduct and courtesy.
- **Canada** celebrated the **150th anniversary** of the day it officially became a country and the self-governing dominion of Britain.
 - Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** launched the celebrations outside the Parliament.
- **Vietnamese capital Hanoi** approved a proposal to **ban motorbikes**, the city's most popular mode of transport, from its central streets by **2030**.
- The **French** government has announced that the country will end sales of **petrol** and **diesel** vehicles by **2040** as part of an **ambitious plan** to meet its targets under the **Paris climate** accord.

- The **United Nations** adopted a **Global Draft Treaty banning nuclear weapons** amid opposition from all nuclear weapon states which boycotted the negotiations.
- The **UN Human Rights Council** has announced that it will undertake a two-day review of **Pakistan's human rights record** in light of the deteriorating human rights situation, particularly in the country's **Sindh province**.
- **Mother Teresa's Blue-bordered Sari** was recognized as an **Intellectual Property** of the **Missionaries of Charity** after she was canonized last year.
- The **Chinese** government has ordered **telecommunications firms** to completely block access to **Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)** by **February 2018**, in a crackdown aimed at suppressing dissent over the legitimacy of the ruling Communist Party.
- The Roman Catholic Mediterranean island **Malta** became the 24th country in the world to legalise **same-sex marriage**.
- UK PM **Theresa May** published the landmark '**Brexit repeal bill**' to end the supremacy of EU laws and the jurisdiction of the **European Court of Justice** in the **UK**.
 - The repeal bill is a largely technical measure to copy all existing EU legislation into domestic UK law to ensure a smooth transition after Brexit.
- **Indonesia** renamed part of the **South China Sea** as the **North Natuna Sea**.
- **Nepal** will get **Internet services** through **Chinese optical fibre** starting next month, ending its reliance on **India** for the service.
- **France** and **Germany** announced plans to develop a "new generation" **European fighter jet**, in an effort to strengthen the European Union and increase cooperation between the two countries.
- The **US House of Representatives** has voted for three legislative amendments to impose tougher conditions for reimbursement of defence funding to **Pakistan**.
 - The amendments make it conditional for Pakistan to show satisfactory progress in its fight against terrorism.
- **Pakistan** has launched a military operation in the **Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)** targeting the **Islamic State**.
- **Somalia** has entered the 4 week of **internet blackout** after a **ship** cut an **undersea cable connecting** the country to **global data networks**.
 - With this, the Somalian economy has been losing \$10 million a day in business without internet.
- **Thailand** has amended a **royal property law** to formally give **King Maha Vajiralongkorn** full control of the agency which manages royal assets worth more than \$30 billion.
- **Philippine** President **Rodrigo Duterte** offered self-rule to the country's **Muslim minority** in an attempt to defeat militants loyal to Islamic State who have besieged the city of **Marawi** for nearly two months.
- The **Bank of England** unveiled a new polymer **£10** note featuring 19th century novelist **Jane Austen**, in a move to replace paper **£5, £10 and £20** with secure **plastic notes**.
 - This makes Austen the only woman other than Queen Elizabeth to be featured on a polymer British banknote.
- **China** announced that it would stop accepting **shipments of garbage** such as waste plastic and paper as part of a campaign against "foreign garbage".
 - The ban will come into force by the end of this year.
- The **United States** has imposed new economic **sanctions** against **Iran** over its ballistic missile programme and for contributing to regional tensions.

- Facebook-owned **WhatsApp** has been partially **blocked** in **China** following a censorship crackdown by the government. China operates world's largest **censorship system**, called the '**Great Firewall**', blocking platforms like Facebook, Google, and Instagram.
- **Uruguay** has become the 1st country in the world to allow the **sale of marijuana** for recreational use. The move comes four years after a law was passed under which cannabis trade was fully legalized.
- The **United States** has ended a four-month ban on flyers carrying laptops on US-bound flights from airports in **North Africa** and the **Middle East**.
 - The UK continues to enforce a similar electronics ban on flights from several Middle Eastern airports.
- The **United States** announced that the government will ban **citizens** from **traveling to North Korea** due to "the serious risk of arrest".
- The **US Defence Department** announced that it will not make military reimbursements to **Pakistan** for 2016 fiscal.
 - This comes after US Defence Secretary **Jim Mattis** said that Pakistan had not taken sufficient action against the **Afghan** insurgent group **Haqqani Network**.
- **Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain** and **Egypt** blacklisted **9 charity groups** and **9 individuals** with ties to **Yemen, Qatar** and **Libya**, labeling them "terrorist" over suspected ties to Islamist extremism.
- **Bolivia's** President **Evo Morales** has declared "total independence" from the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and **World Bank**.
- The **US House of Representatives** voted to approve new sanctions on **Russia** for its interference in the **2016 presidential elections**, despite President Donald Trump objecting to the legislation.
 - The bill would also levy new sanctions against **North Korea** and **Iran** over the nations' ballistic missile programs.
- The **UK** will ban the sale of all **new petrol** and **diesel cars** from **2040** as part of the government's efforts to tackle air pollution by making "almost every car" zero-emission by **2050**.
- **Australia** has sent its first **uranium shipment to India** for testing purposes ahead of possible **commercial sales**.
- Officials of **India** and **Bangladesh** agreed to **construct gates** along the border to allow **free** and **safe** passage for **wild elephants**.
- **Japan** has approved a plan to reduce working hours to lower the country's **suicide** rate by **30%** by **2025**.
- **Russian** President **Vladimir Putin** has signed a law ratifying a deal with the **Syrian** government allowing Russia to keep its air base in Syria for almost 50 years.

Books and Authors

Book's Name

- Narendra Damodardas Modi : The Making of a Legend
- Mandela's Last Years

Author's Name

- Bindeshwar Pathak
(Chief of Sulabh International)
- Vejay Ramlakan

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to write a book for the youth of the country wherein he will **address issues** like overcoming **examination stress**, keeping one's **composure** and what to do after the exams.
 - The book, a first-of-its-kind initiative by a serving prime minister, will be out later this year in multiple languages.

- Defence Minister **Arun Jaitley** released a Coffee Table Book titled '**Ganga Avahan – The Epic Tale of a Historic Swim**'.
 - The '**Ganga Avahan**' was a pioneering and historic exploratory open-water swim expedition on the Ganga River.

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TO THE POINTS: JULY-2017

- Rajkiran Rai G has assumed charge as Managing Director & CEO of **Union Bank of India**.
- Senior diplomat Shamma Jain was appointed as India's ambassador to **Greece**.
- **Infosys** has appointed D Sundaram as an independent director on the board of the company.
- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited** has entered into a technology collaboration agreement with Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd (KHI) of Japan for manufacturing of stainless steel coaches and bogies for metros.
- **India** has contributed \$500,000 to the UN Peace-building Fund.
- **Svatantra Microfin**, microfinance institution launched an app, an end-to-end cashless solution called Saathi.
- **Asian Development Bank** committed USD 10 billion supports for infrastructure building and immediate development needs of less-developed states in India.
- China's **Nanjing** city became the first Asian city to be getting a vertical forest (by 2018).
- **Reliance Jio** has launched the Asia-Africa-Europe (AAE-1) submarine cable system.
- **Preeti Shenoy** was honored with the Indian of the Year award by the Brands Academy.
- **Ana Brnabic** is the new Prime Minister of Serbia.
- Rajeev Pratap Rudy & Shivraj Singh Chouhan laid the foundation stone of country's biggest Global Skill Park in **Bhopal**.
- GST Council reduced the tax rate on fertilizer to 5 percent from previously decided 12 percent.
- **Madya Pradesh** sets new Guinness World Record by planting over six crore saplings in 24 districts of Narmada basin in just 12 hours.
- **Telangana** announced will have a separate budget for Agriculture from next year.
- FINO Payments Bank has commenced operations as a payments bank with effect from 30th June 2017; **Rishi Gupta** is the MD and CEO of FINO Payments Bank.
- **Australia** government has created a new information warfare unit which will be tasked with defending the country's military assets from cyber attacks.
- India successfully test fired its indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air (QRSAM) short-range missile from a test range off the **Odisha coast**.
- The Indian Railways has decided to allow foreigners to book train tickets **360** days in advance, extended from the current 120 days.
- **Germany** passed a controversial law under which Facebook, Twitter, and other social media companies could face fines of up to €50 million (\$57 million) for failing to remove hate speech.
- **Ritika Thaker** won the Ivory Coast International badminton title in women's single category.
- **Jehan Daruvala** became the first Indian driver to win in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship, claiming victory in Race 3 at the Nuremberg Circuit.
- Ravinder Randev who passed away recently was a **Journalist**.

- N Gurusamy who passed away recently was a **Freedom fighter**.
- **Nagaland** has been declared as “disturbed area” for six more months under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.
- **Achal Kumar Jyoti** has been appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).
- The Financial Stability Board (FSB), an international body for global financial system, has placed **India** in the league of countries that are ‘compliant or largely compliant’ on implementation of priority area reforms.
- India has slipped to the **88th** place in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks, while the U.K. remains on the top.
- Narendra Modi will become the first Indian prime minister to visit **Israel**.
- Pradeep Kumar Rawat, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) here, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to **Indonesia**.
- **Sanjay Kumar** has been appointed as the new chief of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- **Karnataka** government has launched the ‘Elevate 100’ scheme to identify and nurture innovative start-ups.
- The Haryana government will set up an environment-friendly transportation system in **Gurugram**.
- **Swayam Shikshan Prayog** has been awarded the United Nations Development Programme’s Equator Prize for devising an ecologically sustainable agriculture model to combat the adverse impacts of drought.
- **Ministry of Power** launched a portal for optimum utilization of domestic coal by independent power producers.
- The environment minister has launched a month-long tree plantation drive to mark Van Mahotsav. The first tree planting campaign started in **New Delhi**.
- The United Forum of Bank Unions has decided to observe **July 19**, the 48th anniversary of nationalization of major banks, as ‘Save public sector banks’ day.
- **Yes Bank** has signed a MoU in London with Santander to promote India-UK trade and business opportunities.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** became the last state to implement GST, passing the resolution during a special session of the legislative assembly.
- A 14-day joint military training exercise between India and Thailand “Exercise Maitree 2017” started in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education was held in **Beijing, China**.
- **Jharkhand** government decided to treat All India Council for Technical Education approved diploma holders, equivalent to intermediate (10+2) pass.
- **Microsoft India** has signed an agreement with National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA) to offer Microsoft Aspire School Program (MASP) Pro Plus to over 55,000 member schools.
- **Gowra Srinivas** has been unanimously elected as President of the Federation of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTAPCCI) for the year 2017-18.
- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved bankruptcy proceedings against **Jyoti Structures Limited**.
- India and Israel signed a total of **seven** agreements in various areas like agriculture, space cooperation.

- The Dree Festival of **Arunachal Pradesh** is an agricultural festival celebrated with the traditional pomp & gaiety.
- **Telangana** government announced setting up of 16 task force teams to curb food adulteration in the State.
- The 10th India-Jordan Morocco Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC) Meeting was held in **New Delhi**.
- Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan named **Sarfraz Ahmed** as Test team captain.
- **Guruswamy Jayraman** has been awarded Order of Australia for community work, the highest civilian award in Australia.
- Sandeep Chakravorty has been appointed as the head of the Indian consulate in New York; he is an India's Ambassador to **Peru**.
- The European Parliament overwhelmingly approved a first-ever cooperation deal between the EU and **Cuba**.
- Kewal Handa was appointed as non-executive chairman of **Union Bank of India**.
- **Odisha** government signed an Expression of Intent (EOI) with the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to establish a High Performance Academy.
- **India** has declared itself free from Bird Flu (highly pathogenic Avian Influenza - H5N1 and H5N8) and notified it to the World Organization for Animal Health.
- Siemens has opened its first digital factory in **India**, also the third globally after one each in Germany and China.
- **India, Japan and USA** involved in Malabar naval exercise.
- **John Joseph** has been appointed Director General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DG GSTI).
- **Raninder Singh** has been re-elected as president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) for a period of four-year term.
- **West Bengal** Government to celebrate Kanyashree Utsav on July 25.
- **Chhattisgarh** will become the country's logistic hub following the implementation of the goods and services tax (GST).
- **Punjab** cabinet has approved the new transport policy to streamline the issuance of permits and licenses across commercial and private transport vehicles.
- The government will set up 'Garib Nawaz' skill development centres in **100** districts of the country to offer employment-oriented training to the youth from minority communities.
- President Pranab Mukherjee has launched digital initiatives - Swayam, Swayam Prabha and National Academic Depository in **New Delhi** to push e-education in the country.
- **Uttar Pradesh** government has decided to introduce an 'anti-copying' bill in the upcoming assembly session to check for cheating in the state examinations.
- American tech giant Oracle has said it is opening its first digital hub in Asia Pacific, which will be based in **Bangalore**.
- **Saima Wazed Hossain** has been appointed as the WHO's goodwill ambassador for autism in the world body's south-east Asia region.
- **Chhattisgarh** has topped the list among all the states in the country for having issued over 43 lakh soil health cards (SHCs) to farmers in the past two years.

- India's first university only for Dalit students to come up in **Hyderabad** by 2018.
- Jigyasa, a student- scientist connect programme was officially launched in **New Delhi**.
- **122** countries approved the first-ever treaty to ban nuclear weapons at the UN meeting boycotted by all nuclear-armed nations.
- Private life insurance company Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has entered into an alliance with the **Dhanlaxmi Bank** for marketing various life insurance products.
- The Supreme Court asked the **Tamil Nadu** government not to force farmers to repay loans.
- Nepal SBI Bank, a subsidiary of the State Bank of India, has launched its fully automatic digital banking services in **Kathmandu**.
- 12th G20 summit held in **Hamburg, Germany**.
- **Danfoss India** has been conferred with the 'Golden Peacock Award' for Environment Management.
- The First edition of WINGS 2017 Sab Uden, Sab Juden"- Expanding Regional Connectivity was hosted in New Delhi by the Ministry of **Civil Aviation**.
- The first International Aviation Security Seminar held in **Haryana**.
- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Kerala State Council will send a business delegation to **Vietnam** to attend 'Vietfood & Beverage'.
- India bagged a total of **29** medals including 12 golds to top the medals tally at the Asian Athletics Championships for the first time ever.
- Naresh Chandra who passed away recently, he was a Former Indian Ambassador to **USA**.
- Actor Ji-Tu Cumbuka who passed away recently, he was from **USA**.
- **Subhash Chandra Garg** assumed charge as Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in the Finance Ministry.
- **Rajeev Dubey** has been elected to the International Labor Organization (ILO) Governing Board on June 12 at Geneva.
- **Maharashtra** government has announced the setting up of a 24X7 call centre to address passengers' queries regarding the schedule of State Road Transport Corporation Buses.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed a MoU with the Government of **West Bengal** to formalize its support to set up a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine.
- **Axis Bank** has entered into collaboration with Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) to facilitate trade with Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **Maharashtra** has become the first state in the country to provide women an inject able contraceptive for free.
- Cabinet approved MoU between India and **Bangladesh** for cyber security cooperation.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired has given its approval for 4 Laning of Solapur-Bijapur Section of New NH-52 (formerly NH-13) in **Maharashtra and Karnataka**.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired has given its approval for up gradation and widening of 65 kms of Imphal-Moreh Section of NH-39 in **Manipur** at a cost of Rs.1630.29 crores.
- **Google** has acquired Bengaluru-based artificial intelligence startup Halli Labs for an undisclosed sum.
- A Pikachu-themed train was launched in **Japan** as a disaster relief project after 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

- BCCI confirmed the **Ravi Shastri** as the new coach of the Indian cricket team.
- **P. V. Sindhu** has been with the Sports person of the Year award during the 'Maruti Suzuki Sports person of the Year' Charity Gala Awards.
- Ray Phiri who passed away recently, he was a famous **Musician** in South Africa.
- **Debi Prasad Dash** has taken over as the Director General of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).
- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 'Ashiana Annexe' in **Uttarakhand**.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) celebrated its 36th foundation day on **July 12** 2017.
- GMR Goa International Airport to get Rs.1330 crore loan from **Axis Bank** for Mopa project.
- **Chhattisgarh** has decided to merge all the branches of the district central cooperative banks (DCCBs) with the state cooperative banks.
- Union Cabinet approved MoU between India and **Palestine** on cooperation in the field of Health, Medicine, Information Technology and Electronics.
- Cabinet approved Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between India and **Germany** on cooperation in the field of Health.
- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the Joint Interpretative Notes (JIN) on the Agreement between India and **Bangladesh** for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.
- Malala Day was observed on **July 12**.
- **Mithali Raj** became the first women's player to reach 6000 ODI runs.
- **Iran** has appointed a female CEO to lead its national airline for the first time since it was established in the 1940s.
- The Board of Directors of Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) appointed **Vikramajit Sen** as the new chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC).
- **Andra Pradesh** is topped the charts in ease of doing business and providing electricity to rural households.
- **Uttarakhand** has started to provide free coaching for meritorious students of the state for admissions into IIT with the launch of Super-30 scheme.
- **Meghalaya** government launched the Livelihood Intervention and Facilitation of Entrepreneurship (Life) programme in Songsak in the East Garo Hills.
- Union minister for earth sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated Kerala's first doppler radar in **Kochi**.
- Yes Bank along with YES Global Institute has launched **YES GST** program for MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) under its MSME CSR initiative.
- The 22nd World Petroleum Congress, the largest gathering for the oil and gas industry, held in **Istanbul, Turkey**.
- Kishore Sansi has been conferred with the 'Personality of the Year' award by Skoch Consultancy Services; he is the present MD and CEO of **Vijaya Bank**.
- The country is set to get its first high-speed rail training centre in **Gujarat**.
- The government launched a national strategic plan for the elimination of malaria and pledged to eradicate the vector-borne disease by **2027**.

- India has the **Second** highest number of adults planning to migrate to other countries with the US and the UK among the most favored destinations.
- A group of Indian astronomers have discovered a massive super cluster of galaxies, and have named it **Saraswati**.
- India and Sri Lanka Air Forces have concluded a joint exercise in **Colombo**.
- **Sandeep Patil** has been named as the brand ambassador of the Indian Indoor Cricket Team.
- **Misbah-ul-Haq** has been awarded honorary life membership by the Lord's based-Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- **James Anderson** became the first fast bowler in Test cricket history to take 300 wickets at home.
- Mukesh Kumar Jain has been appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer of **Oriental Bank of Commerce**.
- **Subra Suresh** has been chosen as the fourth President of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore.
- India is ranked **116** out of 157 nations on a global index that assesses the performance of countries towards achieving the ambitious sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- Indian Railways launched first solar-powered DEMU (diesel electrical multiple unit) train from the Safdarjung railway station in **New Delhi**.
- Centre forms panel to enhance cyber-security framework of rural programmes. The panel is headed by **Kiran Karnik**.
- The book, 'President's Lady' (Pranaber Preyosi), was released by vice president Hamid Ansari, the book written by **Sangeeta Ghosh**.
- **Yes Bank** has received \$ 150 million funding from the US government and Wells Fargo to increase lending to support women entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises in India.
- Matunga suburban railway station in **Mumbai** has become the first station in India to be run by an all-women staff.
- The US House of Representatives has passed a \$USD 621.5 billion defence policy bill that proposes to advance defence cooperation with **India**.
- A Model United Nations Regional Conference held at **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- The government has launched a GST training programme to skill around **2 lakh** youths in six months to handle tax compliance issues like invoice making.
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) celebrated the 89th Foundation Day on **July 16**.
- **Singapore Airlines** has been rated the world's best airline in a survey by the Travel and Leisure magazine.
- **Maharashtra** has more than doubled the monthly pay of elected representatives to municipal bodies in the state, after considering inflation.
- Digital payments company **MobiKwik** has partnered Samsung Pay, under which consumers will be able to make payments with a single tap using select Samsung handsets.
- **I H Manudev** won the first National Masters snooker tournament title in Chennai.
- Nar Bahadur Bhandari who passed away recently, he was a former chief minister of **Sikkim**.
- Justice Gopal Prasad Parajuli to be the new Chief Justice of **Nepal**.
- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed a MoU for 2017-18 with the **Ministry of Defence** and set a revenue target of Rs 9,000 crore from operation.

- The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), in association with the **West Bengal** government, will host Horasis Asia Meeting, a global business meet, in the city in November.
- The spectacular Dal Lake here hosted first ever 'Culture of Cruise', a weekly cultural programme organized by the **Jammu and Kashmir** government aimed to bring artists from various fields on one stage.
- **USA and Australia** have jointly test-fired a hypersonic missile capable of moving at a speed eight times faster than sound as part of a \$54-million research project.
- **Smriti Irani** is the new Information and Broadcasting Minister.
- **Narender Singh Tomar** is the new Urban development Minister.
- **Amartya Sen** released a book titled "Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives" at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- **India** and Sri Lanka have signed a MoU to develop a village in Anuradhapura District at a cost of 30 crores Sri Lankan rupees.
- India has ranked **Fourth** among world's fastest growing economies.
- The Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) is conducting jointly with the US, the second edition of United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP-02) in **New Delhi**.
- State Bank of India, the country's largest commercial bank, has launched SBI Realty – a one-stop integrated website www.sbirealty.in for **Home buyers**.
- **Harinder Pal Sandhu** won the Victorian Open Squash title 2017.
- Three Indian woman judokas won **Bronze** medals in their respective categories at the recently-concluded Asian Junior Judo Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- World football body FIFA has lifted a ban imposed on **Sudan** for government interference in the sport.
- BCCI has appointed **Bharat Arun** as the Indian cricket team's bowling coach.
- Amit Saroha clinched **Silver** medal in the club throw event in the F-51 category below waist paraplegic category at the ongoing World Para Athletics Championships in London.
- A 101-year-old woman just set a new record for her age group by completing the 100-meter race in just over 40 seconds. She belongs to **USA**.
- Martin Landau who passed away recently, he won an Oscar award as an **Actor** in 1994 film "Ed Wood".
- **Tamil Nadu** has almost doubled the salary of MLAs in the state from Rs.55,000 to Rs.1.05 lakh recently.
- Cabinet approved MOU in respect of **tax** matters between India and BRICS countries.
- The Union Cabinet has been apprised of the MoU between India and **Netherland** on cooperation in the exploration.
- The Maharashtra government has decided to increase the compensation for rape and acid attack survivors from Rs.3 lakhs to **10 lakhs**.
- **Gujarat** government launched a pilot programme to provide subsidized meals to laborers for Rs. 10, once a day, under 'Shramik Annapurna Yojana'.
- **Uber** has launched a nationwide campaign called "Decongest India", starting with New Delhi, to curb congestion and pollution.

- First woman Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill has been elected to an influential cross-party panel in the **UK** Parliament.
- A group of seven Indian students has bagged two awards at the first global robotics Olympiad held in the **USA** where 157 countries participated.
- **Indian Oil Corporation** has bagged the WPC Excellence Award for its innovative and ground-breaking INDMAX technology at 22nd edition of the World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** Tourism Department has received the award in the category of 'Best Adventure Tourism Destination and Eco-Tourism Destination'.
- Ram Nath Kovind has been elected as **14th** President of India.
- National Bamboo Mission renamed as **National Agro-Forestry & Bamboo Mission** is being implemented as per the set objectives and targets of the Mission.
- **Bangalore**, Indian city to be developed as hub for gaming, animation.
- **Gujarat** as topped the list of states having the highest investment potential, according to a survey of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- India has launched a solar project with state-of-the-art technology to electrify a remote village in **Egypt**.
- India's first Food Truck Park has opened in **Mumbai**.
- **Karnataka** will give free laptops to 1.5 lakh students from poor families, who are joining colleges in the state this academic year.
- **Goa Shipyard Limited and Hindustan Shipyard Limited** signed a MoU for the financial year 2017-18 with defence ministry.
- The Reserve Bank of India will soon issue a new batch of Rs.20 notes under the Mahatma Gandhi series-2005. The notes will have the inset letter **S**.
- 'Hamari Shala Kaisi Ho' and 'Shala Siddhi Karyakram' are being implemented by the School Education department in Government schools in **Madya Pradesh**.
- **L.K. Advani** received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions as a parliamentarian in the Lok Sabha.
- **Maharashtra** government approved a revised policy of the 'Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree' scheme, according to which families who have a yearly income of up to Rs.7.5 lakh will be benefited.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched the **mAadhaar** app, a digital tool that allows holders of Aadhaar numbers to carry their in their smart phones.
- Famous singer Barbara Weldens who passed away recently, she was from **France**.
- **Divyanka Tripathi** has been awarded Most Admired Leader in the field of Entertainment by Herald Global.
- The government cleared the second phase of BharatNet, its ambitious programme to bring broadband connectivity to all **2.5 Lakh** gram panchayats in the country.
- **Andra Pradesh** Skill Development Corporation launched 'Udyogaram', a digital technology-based employment van.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has formally launched a pension scheme named **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana** for senior citizens with an assured return rate of eight per cent.
- 7 Indian companies were featured in this year's Fortune Global 500 list.
- **Jharkhand** has set up a helpline for farmers that would become operational from 22.07.2017.

- **Telangana** is the first state to have eco-friendly bridges for the movement of tigers over a canal cutting across the tiger corridor.
- **Meghalaya** launched a statewide football grassroots development programme 'Mission Football' at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
- The Government of India has setup a Central Monitoring Committee to monitor the impact of GST, the committee headed by the **Cabinet Secretary**.
- Google has launched **Hire**, a recruiting app for small- and medium-sized businesses that also integrates seamlessly with G Suite.
- **Russia** will sign three key agreements with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd for Kudankulam units 5 and 6, by the end of this month.
- **ICICI Bank** will be selling personal loans of up to Rs.15 lakhs through its ATMs that can be availed of by select salaried customers even if they haven't previously applied for one.
- **Morocco** and Britain have signed a MoU on aviation security.
- **Lord Davies** has been appointed as Chair of the UK India Business Council (UKIBC).
- In the newly released Fortune Global 500 list, **Apple** has been named as the world's most profitable company, reaping in nearly \$45.7 billion in profit in the last financial year.
- **Sanjay Kothari** has been appointed as Secretary to President-elect Ram Nath Kovind.
- **Shanmugh Natarajan** has been appointed as the managing director (MD) for Adobe Systems in India.
- **Kerala** will be hosting the fifth edition of South India Writers Ensemble (SIWE).
- **Bank of Baroda** has entered into an agreement with Directorate General of Supplies & Disposal (DGS&D) for extending various banking services to Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- India's first child-friendly police station coming up at **Rajasthan**.
- The President of India has inaugurated the "Bicentenary celebration of the heroic Paika Rebellion of Odisha, a valiant uprising of Paikas against the British rule" organized by the **Ministry of Culture**.
- India has presented its national review report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the UN; the report was presented by **Arvind Panagariya**.
- **Russia and Hungary** will host two future editions of the world championships in short-course swimming.
- **Vijay Goel and Nitin Gadkari** flagged off the 10th Slum Yuva Daud at Khichripur in New Delhi.
- Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the Research Institution of World Ancient, Traditional, and Culture & Heritage (RIWATCH) Museum in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Kerala** is getting ready to host a literary festival with tolerance as the core theme.
- **Paradip** would be developed into a smart port and smart city at an investment of Rs.40,000 crore.
- **Delhi** government has announced plans to launch a mobile application which will allow people to check the status of government projects on a single platform.
- **Karnataka Bank** in association with its PNB MetLife has launched Met Loan and Life Suraksha (MLLS), a single premium plan covering the loan liability of a customer.
- **England** won the Women's cricket world cup 2017 title.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS: JULY-2017

MODEL QUESTIONS

List of Important Days

1. What is the theme of the 2017 International Co-operative Day (IDC)?
(1) Peace-building through Co-operatives
(2) Co-operative enterprise empowers women
(3) Choose co-operatives, choose equality
(4) Co-operatives ensure no one is left behind
(5) None of these
2. The 2017 Save Public Sector Banks Day (SPSBD) will be celebrated on which date in India?
(1) July 19 (2) July 8 (3) July 15 (4) July 11 (5) None of these
3. What is the theme of 2017 World Youth Skills Day (WYSD)?
(1) Skills for Youth
(2) Skills Development for Peace
(3) Skills Development to Improve Youth Employment
(4) Skills for the Future of Work
(5) None of these
4. The 2017 National Broadcasting Day (NBD) is celebrated on which date in India?
(1) July 23 (2) July 24 (3) July 22 (4) July 21 (5) None of these
5. The 18th anniversary of 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' has celebrated on which day in India?
(1) July 25 (2) July 24 (3) July 26 (4) July 22 (5) None of these

State Bank of India

6. Which portal has been launched by the State Bank of India (SBI) for home buyers?
(1) SBI Realty (2) SBI DreamHome (3) SBI RealState
(4) SBI Home (5) None of these

Other Banks

7. Indus OS has partnered with which Indian Bank to launch an OS-integrated UPI payment platform?
(1) Dena Bank (2) State Bank of India (SBI) (3) YES Bank
(4) Punjab National Bank (PNB) (5) None of these
8. Which Indian bank has tied up with Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) to boost trade with Latin America?
(1) UCO Bank (2) ICICI Bank (3) HDFC Bank (4) Axis Bank (5) None of these
9. Which Indian bank has acquired Snapdeal-owned mobile wallet FreeCharge?
(1) ICICI Bank (2) HDFC Bank (3) Axis Bank
(4) State Bank of India (5) None of these

Supreme Court

10. Who is the head of the 9-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court (SC) to determine whether privacy is a fundamental right or not under the Constitution?
(1) Abhay Manohar Sapre (2) J S Khehar (3) Sanjay Kishan Kaul
(4) Fali Nariman (5) None of these

High Courts and Sessions Courts

11. Which high court has made National song 'Vande Mataram' mandatory in Tamil Nadu schools?
(1) Madras High Court (2) Delhi High Court (3) Bombay High Court
(4) Kerala High Court (5) None of these

Central Government

12. The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to IRDAI - IAIS pact for information exchange. What does "IAIS" stands for?
(1) International Association of Insurance Supervisors
(2) International Authority of Insurance Supervisors
(3) International Associate of Insurance Supervisors
(4) International Accounting of Insurance Supervisors
(5) None of these

States

13. Which state government will set up modern ornamental fish hatchery in the state?
(1) Jharkhand (2) Himachal Pradesh (3) Odisha
(4) Haryana (5) None of these
14. Which state government has launched "Janahitha" to receive complaints from public?
(1) Andhra Pradesh (2) Madhya Pradesh (3) Telangana
(4) Karnataka (5) None of these
15. The Union Government has approved climate change projects for which three states under NAFCC?
(1) Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana
(2) Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat
(3) Karnataka, Sikkim and Assam
(4) Rajasthan, Gujarat and Sikkim
(5) None of these
16. Which state will be the focus state at the 2017 World Food India (WFI)?
(1) Kerala (2) Assam (3) Mizoram (4) West Bengal (5) None of these
17. Which State Civil Secretariat has become the India's first secretariat to be fully under wireless coverage?
(1) Kerala (2) Arunachal Pradesh (3) Assam
(4) Sikkim (5) None of these

Place in the News

18. The Wilpattu National Park (WNP) is located in which country?
(1) India (2) Bhutan (3) Maldives (4) Sri Lanka (5) None of these
19. Which Indian city has been declared as a World Heritage City (WHC) by UNESCO?
(1) Mumbai (2) Ahmedabad (3) New Delhi (4) Kolkata (5) None of these
20. Which city hosted the first edition of WINGS 2017 - "Sab Uden, Sab Juden" to expand regional connectivity?
(1) Agartala (2) Kanpur (3) Indore (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
21. Which city to host the 2017 World Food India (WFI)?
(1) Kochi (2) Surat (3) Chandigarh (4) New Delhi (5) None of these

22. Which country to host 8th Edition of Theatre Olympics 'The Biggest Theatre Celebration of the World'?
- (1) Poland (2) India (3) Japan (4) China (5) None of these
23. Which country to host the 2022 World Short Course Swimming Championships?
- (1) UAE (2) China (3) Hungary (4) Russia (5) None of these
24. Odisha's longest road bridge "Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Setu" has built over which tributary of the Mahanadi River?
- (1) Kathajodi River (2) Subansiri River (3) Manas River
(4) Kameng river (5) None of these
25. The 1817 Paika rebellion was held in which Indian state?
- (1) Kerala (2) Odisha (3) Assam (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
26. Which country is hosting the 2017 Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships?
- (1) India (2) Japan (3) Nepal (4) China (5) None of these
27. Where is the headquarters of Dredging Corporation of India Limited?
- (1) Pune (2) New Delhi (3) Chennai (4) Visakhapatnam (5) None of these
28. Where is the headquarters of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)?
- (1) New Delhi (2) Kochi (3) Patna (4) Lucknow (5) None of these

Personalities

29. Which Indian athlete was the flag bearer for the Indian contingent in the 22nd Asian Athletics Championship (AAC)-2017?
- (1) Jitu Rai (2) Tintu Luka (3) Srabani Nanda
(4) Dipa Karmakar (5) None of these

Defence and National Security

30. The 2017 Indo-Thai joint military exercise "Maitree" has started in which Indian state?
- (1) Himachal Pradesh (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Andhra Pradesh
(4) Maharashtra (5) None of these

Committees/Commissions

31. Which state government has formed committee to study legalities for separate state flag?
- (1) Karnataka (2) Kerala (3) Tamil Nadu (4) West Bengal (5) None of these
32. The GST council has formed which committee to select members of National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAPA) under GST?
- (1) Pradeep Kumar Sinha (2) Rajeev Topno (3) Dharam Vir
(4) Nripendra Mishra (5) None of these

Schemes/Initiatives

33. Which state government has launched "G-Ride", a digital ride sharing app for techies?
- (1) Assam (2) Kerala (3) Tamil Nadu (4) Maharashtra (5) None of these
34. Which state government has launched 'Elevate 100' scheme to identify and nurture innovative start-ups?
- (1) Karnataka (2) Assam (3) Kerala (4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these

35. Which union minister has launched MERIT app and e-bidding portal for providing e-Bidding solution to States to select Independent Power Producers (IPPs)?
(1) Jagat Prakash Nadda (2) Piyush Goyal (3) Kiren Rijiju
(4) Anupriya Patel (5) None of these
36. Which state government has recently launched Livelihood Intervention and Facilitation of Entrepreneurship (LIFE)?
(1) Mizoram (2) Meghalaya (3) Manipur (4) Tripura (5) None of these
37. Indian Railways has launched an integrated mobile app "Rail Saarthi" for railway passengers. What does "Saarthi" stands for?
(1) Synergised Advanced Application Rail Travel Help and Information
(2) Synchronic Advanced Application Rail Travel Help and Information
(3) Synchronous Advanced Application Rail Travel Help and Information
(4) Synergic Advanced Application Rail Travel Help and Information
(5) None of these
38. Which new pension scheme has been launched by the Union Government for the senior citizens?
(1) Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)
(2) Pradhan Mantri Vaya Varun Yojana (PMVVY)
(3) Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vradh Yojana (PMVVY)
(4) Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vaman Yojana (PMVVY)
(5) None of these
39. Which union ministry has launched an online complaint system "sexual harassment e-box" at workplace?
(1) Ministry of Women and Child Development
(2) Ministry of Home Affairs
(3) Ministry of Science and Technology
(4) Ministry of Law and Justice
(5) None of these
40. Which union minister has inaugurated RIWATCH Museum in Arunachal Pradesh?
(1) Nitin Gadkari (2) Ashok Gajapathi Raju (3) Kiren Rijiju
(4) Prakash Javadekar (5) None of these
41. Which mobile app has been launched by the Union Government for road maintenance?
(1) RoadBHIM (2) Kartavya (3) Aarambh (4) Prarambh (5) None of these
42. The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has launched which app for dissemination of earthquake parameters?
(1) India Quake (2) Bharat Wake (3) Quake Shell
(4) Sagar Pani (5) None of these

Summit/Conference

43. Which country is hosting the 41st annual UNESCO World Heritage Committee conference?
(1) Poland (2) United States (3) India (4) Germany (5) None of these
44. Which city is hosting the 9th edition of Delhi Dialogue?
(1) New Delhi (2) Jaipur (3) Bhopal (4) Agra (5) None of these
45. Which Indian city is hosting the International conference on sports "CII ScoreCard 2017"?
(1) New Delhi (2) Pune (3) Jaipur (4) Lucknow (5) None of these

46. Which city is hosting the 12th edition of G-20 Summit 2017?
 (1) Hamburg (2) Berlin (3) Frankfurt (4) Stuttgart (5) None of these
47. Which country to host 2017 World Petroleum Congress (WPC) International Conference?
 (1) India (2) China (3) Brazil (4) Turkey (5) None of these
48. Which city is hosting the National Conference of NITI Aayog?
 (1) New Delhi (2) Ahmedabad (3) Kanpur (4) Indore (5) None of these
49. Which IIT institute hosted the 2017 International Conference on Financial Markets and Corporate Finance?
 (1) IIT Bombay (2) IIT Madras (3) IIT Indore (4) IIT Kharagpur (5) None of these
50. Which country is hosting the 2017 Family Planning Summit (FPS)?
 (1) India (2) UK (3) Japan (4) China (5) None of these
51. Which state hosted the National conference on crowd management?
 (1) Karnataka (2) Tripura (3) West Bengal (4) Kerala (5) None of these
52. Which country hosted the 2017 Everest International Model United Nations (EIMUN) Regional Conference?
 (1) China (2) Bhutan (3) India (4) Nepal (5) None of these
53. Which state to host the 5th North East Connectivity Summit-2018?
 (1) Mizoram (2) Tripura (3) Arunachal Pradesh
 (4) Meghalaya (5) None of these
54. Which country to host 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS)-2017?
 (1) Japan (2) China (3) South Korea (4) India (5) None of these

Agreement/Deal/Signed

55. Which state government has signed an Expression of Intent (EOI) with IAAF and Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to establish a High Performance Academy?
 (1) Karnataka (2) Punjab (3) Odisha (4) Assam (5) None of these
56. Which state government has signed MoU with Union Ministry of Health to set up Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine?
 (1) Kerala (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) West Bengal
 (4) Assam (5) None of these
57. India has recently signed pact which country to connect both the countries by waterways?
 (1) Myanmar (2) Bangladesh (3) Thailand (4) Sri Lanka (5) None of these
58. Which state government has signed MoU with Airport Authority of India (AAI) for aviation development?
 (1) Uttarakhand (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Tamil Nadu
 (4) Karnataka (5) None of these

Meet/Visit

59. Who lead the Indian delegation in the 5th edition of BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting-2017?
 (1) Prakash Javadekar (2) Narendra Modi (3) Sushma Swaraj
 (4) Arun Jaitley (5) None of these

60. Which country is hosting the 2017 SAARC Ministers of Law and Order (Interior/ Home Affairs) meeting?
 (1) Sri Lanka (2) Bangladesh (3) India (4) Nepal (5) None of these
61. Which union minister has chaired the first-ever meeting of the newly constituted Islands Development Agency (IDA)?
 (1) Narendra Modi (2) Nirmala Sitharaman (3) Rajnath Singh
 (4) Arun Jaitley (5) None of these
62. Who has led Indian delegation at the 2017 BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meet?
 (1) Narendra Singh Tomar (2) Bandaru Dattatreya (3) Kalraj Mishra
 (4) Ram Vilas Paswan (5) None of these

Fund

63. India has recently donated how much amount to UN Peace Building Fund (PBF)?
 (1) \$4 Lakh (2) \$5 Lakh (3) \$6 Lakh (4) \$8 Lakh (5) None of these

Economy

64. What is the India's GDP growth forecast for FY 18, as per latest report by BMI Research?
 (1) 7.1% (2) 7.6% (3) 6.9% (4) 7.0% (5) None of these
65. What is the India's projected growth rate for 2017, as per supplement of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Outlook 2017?
 (1) 7.4% (2) 7.6% (3) 7.2% (4) 7.5% (5) None of these

Companies/Industry

66. India's first bio-methane bus has been manufactured by which Indian company?
 (1) Tata Motors Ltd. (2) Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. (3) Bajaj Auto Ltd.
 (4) Hyundai Motors Ltd. (5) None of these
67. Which technological giant has launched Kaizala - a productivity app to empower Indian organizations?
 (1) Microsoft (2) Wipro (3) Infosys (4) Reliance (5) None of these

Stock Market

68. Which Indian commodity exchange will merge with Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX)?
 (1) Universal Commodity Exchange
 (2) National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange
 (3) National Multi-Commodity Exchange of India Ltd
 (4) Multi Commodity Exchange
 (5) None of these

Agriculture/Production

69. Which country will become the world's largest milk producer by 2026, as per latest "OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2017-2026" report?
 (1) Vietnam (2) Thailand (3) India (4) Brazil (5) None of these

Energy/Gas/Oil

70. Which country has been selected by IUCN for the construction of the world's first saola breeding centre?
 (1) Vietnam (2) India (3) South Africa (4) Malaysia (5) None of these

71. Which oil company will operate India's first petroleum R&D facility for testing high-end BS-VI quality fuel emissions?
(1) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL)
(2) Indian Oil Corp (IOC)
(3) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
(4) Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL)
(5) None of these

Environment

72. Which state will have India's first Eco-friendly bridges for the movement of tigers?
(1) Telangana (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Odisha
(4) Assam (5) None of these

Education

73. India's first university only for Dalit students will come up in which city?
(1) Kochi (2) Hyderabad (3) Udaipur (4) Bhopal (5) None of these

Transport/Cars/Scooters

74. India's first solar-powered 1600 HP DEMU train has launched from which railway station?
(1) Farukhnagar railway station
(2) Safdarjung railway station
(3) Habibganj railway station
(4) Mumbai Central railway station
(5) None of these
75. Which metro will launch India's first mobile ticketing system?
(1) Kolkata Metro (2) Mumbai Metro (3) Chennai Metro
(4) Lucknow Metro (5) None of these

Films and Film Festival

76. Which Bollywood actress has won the 2017 IIFA Women of the Year award?
(1) Alia Bhatt (2) Disha Patani (3) Sonam Kapoor
(4) Tapsee Pannu (5) None of these

Festival

77. The 2017 Dree festival has recently celebrated in which state of India?
(1) Tripura (2) Manipur (3) Arunachal Pradesh
(4) Mizoram (5) None of these
78. Which state to host 5th South India Writers Ensemble (SIWE) literary festival?
(1) Andhra Pradesh (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Karnataka
(4) Kerala (5) None of these

Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

79. Who has been appointed as the new Economic Relations Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)?
(1) Vinesh Rathore (2) Madhu Tamble (3) Kirti Singh
(4) Vijay Gokhale (5) None of these
80. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Amritsar?
(1) Parimal Rai (2) Santosh Kumar (3) Sanjay Gupta
(4) V P Singh Badnore (5) None of these

81. Saima Wazed Hossain has been appointed as WHO goodwill ambassador for Autism in South-East Asia Region. She hails from which country?
 (1) Pakistan (2) Israel (3) Bangladesh (4) Iran (5) None of these
82. Who has been appointed as the head of the Indian consulate in New York?
 (1) Devendra Jhajharia (2) Sandeep Chakravorty (3) Geeta Malik
 (4) Riva Ganguly Das (5) None of these
83. Who is the newly elected President of Mongolia?
 (1) Sainkhuugiin Ganbaatar (2) Miyegombyn Enkhbold
 (3) Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj (4) Khaltmaagiin Battulga (5) None of these
84. Who is the newly appointed director-general of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)?
 (1) Girraj Singh (2) Nitin Veer Das (3) Debi Prasad Dash
 (4) J J Mohan Lal (5) None of these
85. Who has been appointed as the new Chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC)?
 (1) Aroon Purie (2) Punit Goenka (3) Vikramajit Sen
 (4) Mukul Mudgal (5) None of these
86. Which Indian-origin personality has been appointed as the new UNICEF's Global Goodwill Ambassador?
 (1) Ishani Dutttagupta (2) Jasleen Laghari (3) Shand Panesar
 (4) Lilly Singh (5) None of these
87. Who has been sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Nepal?
 (1) Kalyan Shrestha (2) Bhanubhakta Dhakal (3) Hari Prasad Pradhan
 (4) Gopal Prasad Parajuli (5) None of these
88. Who has been given additional charge of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B)?
 (1) Narendra Singh Tomar (2) Smriti Irani (3) Arun Jaitley
 (4) Prakash Javadekar (5) None of these
89. Who has been sworn-in as the new chief minister of Nagaland?
 (1) TR Zeliang (2) Shurhozelie Liezietsu (3) Hokishe Sema
 (4) Vizol Angami (5) None of these
90. Who has topped a poll of the most powerful Arab women in government 2017, according to latest Forbes Middle East report?
 (1) Hind Subaih Barrak Al-Subaih (2) Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi
 (3) Iman Houda Feraoun (4) Sahar Nasr (5) None of these
91. Who has been appointed as the first female President of the Supreme Court (SC) in United Kingdom (UK)?
 (1) Mary Wortley Montagu (2) Nell Gwyn (3) Jane Austen
 (4) Brenda Marjorie Hale (5) None of these
92. Who has been appointed as India's alternate Governor on the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)?
 (1) Kaushik Basu (2) Subhash Chandra Garg (3) Rajiv Mehrishi
 (4) Shaktikanta Das (5) None of these

93. Who has been sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Bihar?
(1) Sushil Kumar Modi (2) Nitish Kumar (3) Lalu Prasad Yadav
(4) CP Joshi (5) None of these

Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit

94. Fanaceso Totti, the legendary footballer has announced his retirement. He hails from which country?
(1) Germany (2) Italy (3) France (4) Japan (5) None of these

Deaths

95. Simone Veil, the iconic European feminist politician passed away. She hailed from which country?
(1) Germany (2) France (3) Italy (4) Japan (5) None of these
96. Sabita Chowdhury, the noted singer has passed away. She hailed from which state?
(1) Odisha (2) West Bengal (3) Uttar Pradesh
(4) Maharashtra (5) None of these
97. Ray Phiri, the Jazz legend has passed away. He hailed from which country?
(1) South Africa (2) Ireland (3) Israel
(4) Brazil (5) None of these
98. Nar Bahadur Bhandari, who passed away recently, was the former Chief Minister of which Indian state?
(1) Nagaland (2) Arunachal Pradesh (3) Sikkim
(4) Manipur (5) None of these
99. Mervyn Rose, the well-known tennis player passed away. He hailed from which country?
(1) France (2) United States (3) Switzerland
(4) Australia (5) None of these
100. Prof. Yash Pal, who passed away recently, was the famous scientist from which field?
(1) Chemistry (2) Medicine (3) Biology (4) Physics (5) None of these
101. Dharam Singh, who passed away recently, was the former Chief Minister of which state?
(1) Himachal Pradesh (2) Karnataka (3) Assam
(4) Kerala (5) None of these

Awards/Honours

102. Who has been conferred with the 2017 Best astrologer of the world award?
(1) P K L Sarnath (2) Ganesha Bejan Daruwalla (3) T S Vneeth
(4) Viktor Kondrashin (5) None of these
103. Who of the following has been awarded the 2017 USIBC Global Leadership Awards?
(1) Mukesh Ambani (2) Azim Premji (3) Aditya Birla
(4) Adi Godrej (5) None of these
104. Which Indian NGO has won the 2017 UNDP Equator Prize for sustainable farming model?
(1) Save Life Foundation (SLF)
(2) Akanksha Public Charitable Trust (APCT)
(3) Child Rights and You (CRY)
(4) Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP)
(5) None of these

105. Which company has been conferred with the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award (GPEMA)?
 (1) Danfoss India (2) Vedanta Limited (3) Wipro Ltd
 (4) Bharti Airtel (5) None of these
106. Which Indian sportsperson has been honoured with the Maruti Suzuki Living Legend of the Year award 2017?
 (1) Leander Paes (2) Milkha Singh (3) Sachin Tendulkar
 (4) Mary Kom (5) None of these
107. IROAF has won the 2017 Golden Peacock Award for Eco Innovation. What does "IROAF" stands for?
 (1) Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuel (IROAF)
 (2) Indian Railways Organization for Advanced Fuel (IROAF)
 (3) Indian Railways Organization for Alter Fuel (IROAF)
 (4) None of the above
 (5) None of these
108. Who has been conferred the 2017 Personality of the Year award by Skoch Consultancy Services (SCS)?
 (1) Kishore Sansi (2) Nandan Nilekani (3) Dilip Parekh
 (4) C Rangarajan (5) None of these
109. Who has been conferred with a fellowship by the Department of Culture, Government of India (GoI)?
 (1) Yasmin Singh (2) Nandakishore Kapote (3) Pali Chandra
 (4) Birju Maharaj (5) None of these
110. Who has been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement (LTA) award for his contributions as a Lok Sabha member?
 (1) Murlī Manohar Joshi (2) LK Advani (3) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
 (4) Mallikarjun Kharge (5) None of these
111. Who has been honoured with the 2017 Mahanayak Samman?
 (1) Moon Moon Sen (2) Debashree Roy (3) Shakuntala Barua
 (4) Mamata Shankar (5) None of these
112. Who has been honoured with the Life Time Excellence Award at the 2017 National Earth System Sciences (NESS) awards?
 (1) K. Krishnamoorthy (2) P. N. Vinayachandran (3) K. Gopalan
 (4) K. S. Krishna (5) None of these

Sports/Game

113. Which football team has won the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup?
 (1) Mexico (2) Chile (3) Germany (4) Portugal (5) None of these
114. Govindan Laxman, who has won gold at the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships (AAC), is associated with which sports?
 (1) Javelin throw (2) Discuss throw (3) Sprint
 (4) Shotput (5) None of these

115. Mohammad Anas, who has won gold at the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships (AAC), is associated with which sports?
 (1) Sprint (2) Shotput (3) Discuss throw
 (4) Javelin throw (5) None of these
116. Who has become first Indian to finish toughest cycle race Race Across America (RAAM) in solo category?
 (1) Varun Singh Bhati (2) Srinivas Gokulnath (3) Deepa Malik
 (4) Mariyappan Thangavelu (5) None of these
117. Sudha Singh, who has won gold at the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships (AAC), is associated with which sports?
 (1) Shotput (2) Javelin throw (3) Steeplechase
 (4) Hammer throw (5) None of these
118. Who is the newly elected president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)?
 (1) DV Seetharama Rao (2) Karan Kumar (3) Shyam Singh Yadav
 (4) Raninder Singh (5) None of these
119. Who has become the first woman cricketer to score 6000 runs in women's ODI cricket?
 (1) Vellaswamy Vanitha (2) Jhulan Goswami (3) Mithali Raj
 (4) Thirush Kamini (5) None of these
120. Sundar Singh, who has won gold at the 2017 World Para Athletics Championships, is associated with which sports?
 (1) Sprint (2) Steeple Chase (3) Javelin throw
 (4) Shot Put (5) None of these
121. Damneet Singh, who has won silver at the 2017 IAFF World U-18 Athletics Championship, is associated with which sports?
 (1) Javelin throw (2) Hammer throw (3) Shot put
 (4) Sprint (5) None of these
122. Who has won the 2017 Victorian Open Squash tournament?
 (1) Saurav Ghosal (2) Nitesh Poonia (3) Rex Hedrick
 (4) Harinder Pal Sandhu (5) None of these
123. Who has won the first-ever National Masters snooker tournament-2017?
 (1) Alok Kumar (2) I H Manudev (3) Rafath Habib
 (4) Naveen Katoor (5) None of these
124. Who has won the 2017 under-15 girls Dutch Open Junior Squash Championship?
 (1) Yoshna Singh (2) Aishwarya Khubchandani (3) Ananya Dabke
 (4) Neha Chaudhary (5) None of these
125. Thangjam Tababi Devi has won gold at the 2017 Asian Cadet Judo Championship (ACJC). She hails from which Indian state?
 (1) Mizoram (2) Arunachal Pradesh (3) Tripura
 (4) Manipur (5) None of these
126. Amit Saroha, who has won silver at the 2017 World Para Athletics Championship, is associated with which sports?
 (1) Archery (2) Rowing (3) Judo (4) Club throw (5) None of these

127. Antim Yadav has won bronze at the 2017 Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG). He hails from which Indian state?
 (1) Jharkhand (2) Madhya Pradesh (3) Uttar Pradesh
 (4) Manipur (5) None of these
128. Who has clinched the 2017 Men's singles US Open Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament?
 (1) Parupalli Kashyap (2) B Sai Praneeth (3) B. Sumeeth Reddy
 (4) H S Prannoy (5) None of these
129. Varun Bhati, who won bronze at the 2017 World Para Athletics Championships, is associated with which sports?
 (1) Sprint (2) Club throw (3) Steeplechase (4) High Jump (5) None of these
130. Which country to host the men's World Boxing Championship in 2021?
 (1) India (2) Russia (3) Turkey (4) Japan (5) None of these
131. Who has been chosen as the captain of the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 team?
 (1) Mithali Raj (2) Tamsin Beaumont (3) Anya Shrubsole
 (4) Marizanne Kapp (5) None of these
132. Kansom Ormila Devi, who won gold at the 2017 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships, is associated with which sports?
 (1) Weightlifting (2) High Jump (3) Judo
 (4) Sprint (5) None of these
133. Kylie Masse, who won women's 100m backstroke gold at the 2017 World Aquatics Championships, is associated with which country?
 (1) Canada (2) France (3) Australia (4) South Africa (5) None of these
134. Ajay Singh, who has won bronze at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships, is associated with which men's junior category?
 (1) 69kg category (2) 44kg category (3) 55kg category
 (4) 77kg category (5) None of these

Report

135. What is the India's rank in money hoarded in Swiss banks in 2016, as per analysis by the Swiss National Bank (SNB)?
 (1) 88th (2) 75th (3) 108th (4) 96th (5) None of these
136. What is the India's rank in the new global Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) index?
 (1) 123rd (2) 132nd (3) 116th (4) 111th (5) None of these
137. Which of the following Indian cities are in the 2017 Dell Global Women Entrepreneur Cities (WE Cities) Index?
 (1) Mumbai and Kochi (2) Bengaluru and Delhi (3) Kolkata and Delhi
 (4) Chennai and Bengaluru (5) None of these

General - National

138. India's first Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) will be set up in which state?
 (1) Punjab (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Kerala (4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these

139. The 2017 United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP-02) has started in which Indian city?
 (1) New Delhi (2) Kolkata (3) Mumbai (4) Chennai (5) None of these
140. Which metro will become the India's first metro to have its own FM radio station?
 (1) Kolkata Metro (2) Lucknow Metro (3) Delhi Metro
 (4) Nagpur Metro (5) None of these
141. Which Indian organisation has designed and build the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam memorial?
 (1) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
 (2) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)
 (3) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
 (4) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)
 (5) None of these
142. India's first bullet train project "MAHSR" will be build with the help of which country?
 (1) China (2) Japan (3) Germany (4) France (5) None of these

General - International

143. Which country has recently declared total independence from IMF and World Bank (WB)?
 (1) Bolivia (2) Iran (3) North Korea (4) Vietnam (5) None of these
144. The United Nations has selected which city as data hub for Middle East North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region?
 (1) Karachi (2) Dubai (3) New Delhi (4) Kabul (5) None of these

Books and Authors

145. Who is the author of the book "Narendra Modi: The Making of a Legend"?
 (1) Sanjay Mathur (2) Bindeshwar Pathak (3) Aditya Sen
 (4) Mohan Chauhan (5) None of these
146. Who is the author of the book "President's Lady" (Pranaber Preyosi)?
 (1) Chinu Modi (2) Sangeeta Ghosh (3) Neehar Mishra
 (4) Ravinder Gupta (5) None of these

Answers: 1-4, 2-1, 3-4, 4-1, 5-3, 6-1, 7-3, 8-4, 9-3, 10-2, 11-1, 12-1, 13-4, 14-3, 15-4, 16-4, 17-2, 18-4, 19-2, 20-4, 21-4, 22-2, 23-4, 24-1, 25-2, 26-3, 27-4, 28-4, 29-2, 30-1, 31-1, 32-1, 33-2, 34-1, 35-2, 36-2, 37-1, 38-1, 39-1, 40-3, 41-3, 42-1, 43-1, 44-1, 45-1, 46-1, 47-4, 48-1, 49-4, 50-2, 51-4, 52-4, 53-3, 54-4, 55-3, 56-3, 57-2, 58-1, 59-1, 60-1, 61-3, 62-2, 63-2, 64-3, 65-1, 66-1, 67-1, 68-3, 69-3, 70-1, 71-3, 72-1, 73-2, 74-2, 75-2, 76-4, 77-3, 78-4, 79-4, 80-3, 81-3, 82-2, 83-4, 84-3, 85-3, 86-4, 87-4, 88-2, 89-1, 90-2, 91-4, 92-2, 93-2, 94-2, 95-2, 96-2, 97-1, 98-3, 99-4, 100-4, 101-2, 102-3, 103-4, 104-4, 105-1, 106-2, 107-1, 108-1, 109-2, 110-2, 111-3, 112-3, 113-3, 114-3, 115-1, 116-2, 117-3, 118-4, 119-3, 120-3, 121-2, 122-4, 123-2, 124-3, 125-4, 126-4, 127-2, 128-4, 129-4, 130-1, 131-1, 132-1, 133-1, 134-4, 135-1, 136-2, 137-2, 138-1, 139-1, 140-2, 141-3, 142-2, 143-1, 144-2, 145-2, 146-2.

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